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Compiled by
Norwich Township Grange

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Master of National Grange

"Hats Off to the Grange" by E. R. Eastman

Acknowledgement to Mr. W. Eastman, Editor of the Empire State Granger

Chenango County ..... Page 9

Norwich Township 14

City of Norwich 18

Twenty-one Townships of Chenango County 28

Churches and Cemeteries 55

Let's Go See 60

Old Timer's Tales 64

On With the Hats 71

Explanatory Note 74

Suggestions for Corrections 76

Granges of Chenango County 77

Message from the Master of The National Grange

To New York Grange Members and All Interested in Our Way of Life:

Organized in 1873, the New York State Grange is rapidly approaching its second century of service to members and all Americans.

Its first four score and seven years form a magnificent foundation for its future. No other comparable force in rural New York has contributed so much to the combined economic, social and cultural blood-steam of the Empire State. Its impact is enviable nationally and throughout the world.

The State of New York is studded with the landmarks of Grange effort. It has built a brand of America — Patrons with the ideals and visions, integrity and ambition, that have formed the human framework for the greatest nation in the history of the world. After all, one of our basic purposes is to build people and generate and stimulate leadership. A better manhood and womanhood, based upon the enhancement of family living, has been the continuing objective and purpose of the Grange. This purpose has been served well in New York State.

The Grange is a family, community, county, state and national, as well as international, fraternal force. Your "institution" — the New York State Grange — has built, through strength of group action, in order that it might better serve the cause of freedom and of fuller, richer life for the people of your state, an enviable record.

We salute Grange members and the whole Grange structure in New York; and rejoice in your opportunities ahead.

Fraternally yours,

Herschel D. Newsom, Master
The National Grange
Washington, D. C.

"HATS OFF TO THE GRANGE"

By E. R. Eastman President of

The American Agriculturist

One of my most rewarding experiences was acting as Lecturer of the Subordinate Grange, Interlaken, New York, more than 40 years ago. In all the years since, I have never forgotten the closeness, the feeling that Grange members are really brothers and sisters, that I gained in that early experience and have added to in my Grange contacts since.

The history of the origin of the Grange always interested me. At the suggestion of President Andrew Johnson, Oliver Hudson Kelley made an extended trip through the southern states right after the Civil War and was appalled at the way the South had been left prostrate.

Kelley decided that the best way to help farmers was for them to help themselves. Incidentally, if all of us could remember that principle, farming and the nation would be much better off today than they are. As a result of Kelley's trip, he planned a great farm organization, the Grange, and decided that the organization should be a secret one with a ritual based upon the grandeur of the rolling seasons and the beauties of nature.

For some reason, the Grange made little progress in the South but it certainly did in the North.

What is of particular interest to us here in the northeast is that New York State and Vermont had the honor of organizing the first two Subordinate Granges in America that have functioned constantly since their organization. These Granges are:

> Fredonia Grange, Fredonia, N. Y. — which was founded by Oliver Kelley himself in 1868; and the Green Mountain Grange, at St. Johnsburg, Vermont, founded in 1871 also by Father Kelley.

In thinking about the many great achievements of the Grange, I put at the top of the list or nearly at the top, the fact that the Grange was the first organization to recognize that

farming is a partnership business and that the women are full partners with the men. From the very first, the Grange saw that farming cannot succeed without the home and the homemakers and that the women have just as much right and duty to participate in public affairs as the men do. Hats off to the Grange for being the first to recognize this basic principle.

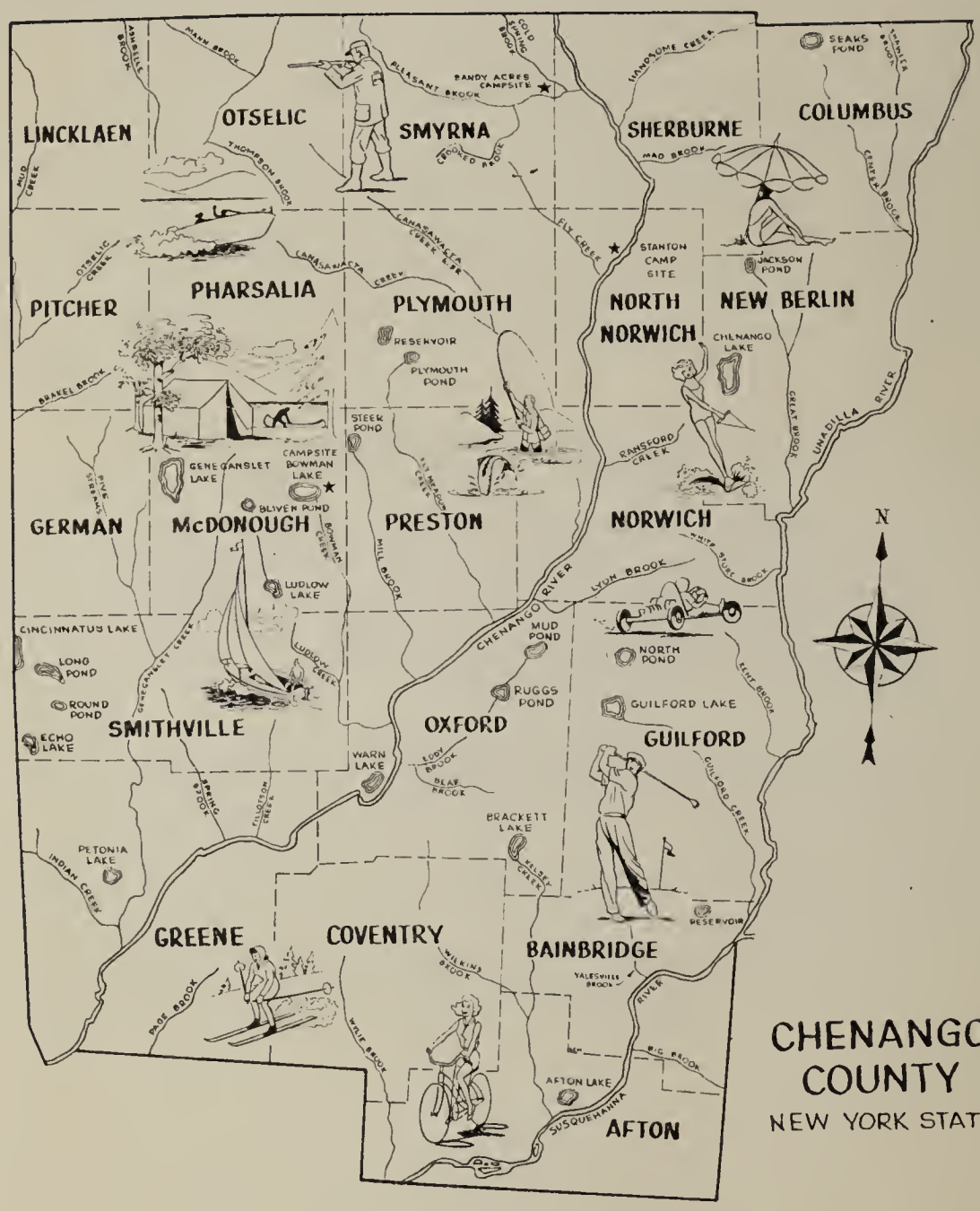
Another direct and important result of Grange work is that it has taught farmers to express themselves. They have always been able to do this, sometimes very emphatically, to each other, but they were slow to express their opinions in meetings where they might do some good. The Grange was a forum. It taught farm people to speak out in thousands of meetings, feel free to get up on their feet, say what they think, put their combined conclusions into resolutions and then give these resolutions to state legislatures and to Congress.

It would take far more space than is available to mention all of the other achievements of the Grange. To name a few: The Grange has organized and supported cooperative marketing. Among the oldest and most successful cooperatives in America are the Grange fire insurance companies. Without the support of the Grange in the early days, it is doubtful if these companies could have succeeded. The Farmers and Traders Life Insurance Company, while not directly connected with the Grange, was organized by Grange officers and members and brought life insurance to rural people. The National Grange Mutual Liability Insurance Company organized by the Grange has done and is doing an outstanding job in supplying farmers with automobile insurance at reasonable prices. Joining with the Dairymen's League and the State Farm Bureau Federation, the Grange helped to organize the Grange League Federation, probably the most successful farm purchasing organization in the world.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

To Mr. W. Eastman, Editor of the Empire State Granger, Ithaca, N. Y., we wish to acknowledge our debt of gratitude for his advice, encouragement and help without which we might never have launched out into this new field of endeavor.

Very Sincerely
The Magic Circle Members of the Book Committee



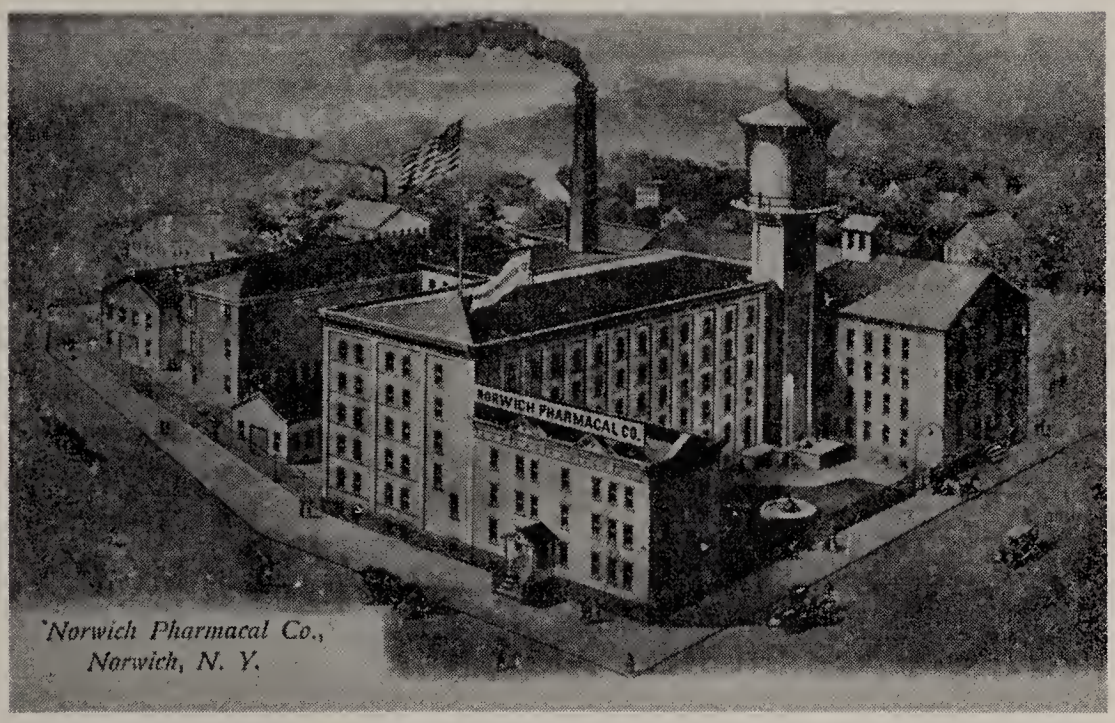
CHENANGO COUNTY
NEW YORK STATE

Norwich Township Grange No. 1581

Picnic Pavilion

A 8778 Court House, Norwich, N. Y.

A 8779 Eagle Hotel, Norwich, N. Y.



Norwich Pharmacal Co.,
Norwich, N. Y.

A replica of a lady's hat when the Grange was young and gay — 1866 !

CHENANGO COUNTY

Chenango County has never made world headlines as far as we can discover, there has been no gold rush here, and we haven't sent anything hurtling into outer space. But here between the Catskill and Adirondack mountains there are quiet townships and villages in the folds of the hills that for generations have provided a good living for all who came and stayed.

The history books tell the vital statistics and the geography of the land and we recommend the Guernsey Memorial Library in Norwich to anyone interested in the wealth of history that has been written about Chenango County.

With a little of the county's background and by recording some of the advantages of rural life we hope to show that the "Land of the Bull Thistle" as the Indians named it is still a very good place to live, and why we think of it as one of "Our Cherished Possessions."

Chenango County was originally part of Herkimer and Tioga counties until March 15, 1798. In like manner Oneida and Madison counties were seperated from Chenango in 1804 and 1806 thus leaving Chenango in the interior, southeast of the heart of New York State and about ninety miles from the State Capital, Albany.

To view the county from the air on a clear summer evening is like having a picture book opened beneath you. Ribbons of rivers and roads wind over the folds of the thickly wooded hills and the farms and homes nestled along the highways and throughout the rich green valleys present a scene of prosperous tranquility.

This part of New York State was settled mostly by immigrants from the British Isles who having escaped the objectionable laws of that tight little island still had to fight for their way of life on this continent and many who went to war were rewarded by grants of land in this, then uninhabited wilderness.

Just one hundred years ago in 1862 the "Homestead Act" was signed by Abraham Lincoln and many land hungry Europeans were able to own a little bit of land whether they had money or not. Any citizen over 21 could come and get 160 acres

of ground on condition that he lived on that piece of land for seven months of the year, built a house and cultivated the soil. Then at the end of five years it was his for keeps.

Many who started with enthusiasm to conquer this wilderness found frontier life more than they could take and sold their land cheap to speculators. Homesteading left its mark on the sturdy American character; it established the farm family who struggled through the harsh winters, plagues and loneliness; they were people with rugged determination and a willingness to work hard to develop the rural areas to become what they are today. Strangely enough, the height of the success of the Homestead Act was not in its earliest years. But between 1913 to 1922 according to the Department of Interior.

The following information comes from a census taken in Chenango in 1865 when the population of the county was 38,360.

Dairying was the principal occupation, but the products of agriculture have changed since then. Most of the milk was made into butter and cheese. Very little was sold or sent to distant cities. In that year, 4, 042,326 pounds of butter was made; there were 41,459 milch cows and 888 working oxen.

Sheep were popular also. There were 63,137 sheep, 494 of which were killed by dogs; wool shorn amounted to 221,949 pounds and 19,306 yards of wool cloth was made in the homes. 32,171 lambs were raised.

Hops and tobacco were important crops and the crop for 1864 came to tobacco, 77,197 lbs., and hops, 569,027 lbs.

The many gnarled and handsome old apple trees still standing along every county road and blossoming forth in the spring speak of another principle farm product. At one time there were 248,870 fruit-bearing apple trees which produced 485,510 bushels of apples and 9,125 barrels of cider.

There is a wealth of information in the Chenango County Directory of 1869-70. Every farmer is listed with the number of acres, where his farm is located and if he had any other business like "millwright and carpenter," "school commissioner, carpenter and farmer," "wagon maker," "tinker," "prop. grist and saw and plaster mill, farmer," "cabinet maker." And the publisher's notices make delightful reading.

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The Fourth Estate has been well represented in Chenango County. Since 1803 when the "Western Oracle" was published at Sherburne Four Corners, 38 newspapers have been circulated and read in the county. The oldest newspaper still published is the "Chenango Union," and the "Evening Sun" till recently the "Norwich Sun" is the only daily paper and it was founded in 1891. Outside of Norwich there are eight weekly papers published. The story of the Fourth Estate is an interesting one in Chenango County.

Chenango County and its industries came into being when only the strong could survive. Men and business lived and grew on their own initiative and resources and there was adventure and even glamour in being part of the opening of the new country. In 1861 the "Boys in Blue" of Chenango's 114th Regiment left their peaceful homes and pursuits and sailed down the canal to the bloody battlefields of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Bull Run. The lonely little cemeteries scattered all over the county bear witness that some of them came back to their beloved Chenango County.

After years of fruitful growth and progress in Norwich and Chenango County came the stirring days of World War I. Women from the farms donned overalls and worked in factories and kissed men who purchased Liberty Bonds. $1,000,000 were sold through the then National Bank of Norwich which was later to be our present National Bank and Trust Company of Norwich with its branches around the county. During World War II, there were $17,250,000 worth of Defense Bonds sold through this bank alone.

The story of the industries of the county is so exciting and remarkable that it has been suggested that we make another project to acquaint everyone with the true American success story going on around us. How hard work, careful management and perseverance in the face of difficulties and disasters have built strong industries employing thousands, and the splendid utility services that we receive, how they came, stayed, and grew, is worthy to be recorded and go down in history of New York State.

The gifts that nature bestowed on Chenango County — an abundance of streams, rich fertile soil, gentle rolling terrain — have from pioneer days been the keynote of agricultural prosperity. From the land in good times and bad comes a steady flow

of agricultural products of all types, especially milk. Agriculture in Chenango County has been developed not only by the men and women who till the soil but also by business processing and marketing the products of the soil. Among the institutions and concerns making outstanding contributions to the economic life of the community is the Chenango County Agricultural Society which is way over a hundred years old. The Richer Company is the oldest in point of service, founded in 1870 by the late Irving L. Richer. Dealing in seeds, fertilizer, feeds, farm building supplies, mixing and grinding, it is considered one of the largest retail feed distributors in New York State.

The history of the Borden Company is of special significance to Chenango County. Gail Borden, the founder, was born in Norwich November 8, 1801. He was an accomplished man of diversified interests and at different times he was a farmer, surveyor, teacher, soldier, inventor and publisher. Primarily he was an inventor of prepared pure foods but the successful Borden Company was established only after many disappointments. A great national food industry was created because of Gail Borden's perseverence, and the Norwich Township Grange erected a stone marker and maintains the plot dedicated as his birthplace.

The Grange League Federation, nationally known cooperative, was originally an exchange for the farmers of the Grange to market their products. Now it has six service stores in this county which generally purchase and deal in commodities of the farmers, fruit growers, poultrymen and agriculturists by providing feed, seed, fertilizer, and farm supplies on a cooperative basis in accordance with the Cooperative Corporation Laws of the State of New York.

A large consumer of milk of Chenango County is the Chenango Ice Cream Co. Inc. of Norwich, which was organized in 1924 and now distributes ice cream in six counties.

The Norwich Pharmacal Company began in the progressive era of 1880 when Rev. Lafayette E. Moore decided to leave the ministry and become a drug manufacturer. He arrived in Norwich from New York City with his wife and a few pill and tablet making supplies. For five dollars a month he rented a small room on Mitchell Street, set up his equipment and laid the foundation for the business that was to make Norwich known

throughout the world as the home of a great pharmacal house, The Norwich Pharmacal Company.

Other foresighted business men invested in the company and thus began a great industry, and today it stands on the threshold of yet greater opportunities and wider fields of public service through advanced ideas of the company's research departments.

The story of the industries of Chenango County alone would fill a book, and our purpose is to just give a sketch of the advantages of rural life and its limitless possibilities for making a good life for ourselves and families.

To close this chapter is a quotation from "90 Years in Chenango County" put out by the National Bank and Trust Company and copied with the kind permission of the president:

"The people of Norwich, of the villages and farms of Chenango County are proud of their heritage. They are proud of the men and women who broke trails and who built the agricultural, the industrial and business economy that makes this area one of substance and prosperity. They are proud of their homes, their churches, their schools, their many fine institutions and of the neighborly atmosphere in which they conduct their lives.

"They know that in Chenango County there is a solid foundation for greater growth . . . in the City of Norwich alone the per capita buying income, after payment of federal taxes, is higher than the per capita buying income in the state, the Middle Atlantic States, and the nation.

"The diversification of the County's industries assures steady employment and pay rolls. The economy of the county is not dependent on one business alone . . . rising and falling with the success or failure of a single enterprise.

"Above all the people have faith in themselves.

"They are friendly, industrious, and firm in the belief that their orderly and conservative way of working and doing business is the best and most successful way. They know that their way is in the finest tradition of American initiative and free enterprise."

NORWICH TOWNSHIP

NORWICH TOWNSHIP GRANGE #1581 was organized March 30, 1944 at the Chenango County Court House under the direction of Mr. Clarence Smith of Afton, then District Deputy of the County and Mr. T. A. Delancy of Oswego, a special New York State Deputy.

The first regular meeting was held April 20, 1944 in the Odd Fellows Hall which stood where the new C. U. Telephone Company office building now stands. Since that first meeting, the Grange has steadily progressed.

In 1948 it was the desire of the members to own their own Grange Hall. This seemed like a big project, but through the generosity and devotion of the members, the hall was built and paid for within a few years. The members did not accomplish this entirely alone. We acknowledge with much gratitude the support we received from the whole community which attended our public dinners and dances. Especially do we thank the Service and Hospitality Committee which organized and were so successful in providing this fine hall that serves the whole community.

The Grange strives for the betterment of the community. Recently road signs have been erected on every road in the township at the Grange expense. We make donations of money and labor to other worthy organizations and remember the needy at Christmas time and in time of fire or disaster.

The Grange is a fraternal organization for the whole family. "In our organization there is work for all" and those who receive the most benefits and happiness from our organization are those who give of their time, strength and talents.

* * *

One of the loveliest of the scenic drives around Norwich begins at the Grange Hall and goes over the hill to Springvale where once the Springvale Creek supplied power for a number of mills along its bank. One of the saw mills operated an up-and-down saw. Just above the mills was an Indian village, but now there is little left but the babbling brook.

Nearby White's Pond is a favorite fishing resort, and Mason White still lives in the old White homestead. Not so very long

ago, cutting ice from these ponds and storing it below the dam was a thriving business but James Boyd of Springvale had a daughter who married William Mein who built an ice plant on Mandeville Ave., in Norwich and the artificial ice put an end to the natural ice business.

This community felt the need of a town building in 1922 and built one near Polkville at the cost of $2,500. and it is still in use as the meeting place for the town board and for voting while another part shelters town machinery.

Polkville was named way back when James K. Polk was running for the office of President and one of the planks in his platform was the annexation of Texas. This seemed to appeal to the voters of the little hamlet and they campaigned vigorously for Polk and when he won over Henry Clay there was great rejoicing and celebrations and the happy villagers declared the name of their village "Polkville." Recently there have been suggestions that the name be changed to East Norwich ignoring the historic significance. It was President Polk who, among other things, revived the Monroe doctrine in 1845 which has been called the "Self Defense of the United States."

Over the hill to Springvale Church, a turn left down the Wells Road leads to a remote spring that has never been known to go dry. People come from near and far to drink this sparkling water that splashes out alongside the dusty road, and during the dry season farmers come with milk cans to supply water for their thirsty stock.

There is a magnificent view all along this road that will bring you out to Route 23 if you keep right on, and a left turn there will bring you down Tanner Hill into Norwich.

Another place of historic interest is Plasterville which in the early 1800's before the canal was built had a population of two hundred and was named after the plaster mill that was located there. Along with a grist mill, saw mills, store, post office, tavern and meeting house, it was a complete community between Norwich and Sherburne.

Theodore Miller built the mill and the canal lock was directly in front giving him seven feet of water rushing through the mill

flume, more than enough to run several millwheels. Timber from the Waupaunaucau hills was hauled down to Plasterville.

Buffalo hair was used to bind the plaster and if you have ever pulled down partitions in the old farmhouses you will know that buffalo hair really binds.

Mead's Pond

A hundred years ago, the Chenango Canal was a busy transportation medium with loaded barges drawn by horses or mules that ambled along the footpath, and the canal banks are still noticeable in the fields along route 12.

Many are the tales that have been written about this rather short-lived waterway through our county; one story tells of the collision of two barges right at what is now Mead's pond. It seems that two barges coming from opposite direction, one carrying iron ore from the north and the other coal from Pennsylvania, met at Mead's Pond which was then used as a switch where the barges could pass easily. However this stormy night in November when the visibility was poor, the barges rammed each other and sank within minutes.

Legend has it that the ore barge was raised and sent on its way but the coal barge is still at the bottom of the pond which is said to be unfathomable.

Near the pond is the local airport which is an important and active asset to the growing community of Norwich. There is chartered service daily to New York, Binghamton and Syracuse, and flights to Chicago, West Virginia, Carolina, Boston and even Florida can be booked at any time. A delightful way to spend an evening is to drive up to the airport for dinner and take a scenic flight over the county. You will see Chenango County from a new angle which may surprise you.

It is most interesting to hear Norwich described by Grange members who remember it from the beginning of the century and it would make wonderful reading to have it put in their own words. Here is an essay contributed by a popular and active Grange member.

"Where the South Broad Street service station is on the corner of Eaton Avenue, there was once the residence of Lawyer

Gladding. It was later purchased by the William Breese Co., and was a funeral home until it was removed.

"On the corner of South Broad Street and Division Street was the home of Hon. John Church, a very prominent citizen and lawyer. Where Bartlett's store is on Division Street, there used to be the Division Street School and farther down between Division and Hale Streets stood Rushmore's Creamery, and next to the Creamery, George McNitt and Son ran a feed store, and the Rushmore's house stood where Reynolds, Son and Allen now have a hardware store.

"A little way out of Norwich on the Mount Upton Road opposite the road to Guilford, there once was a tavern owned by my Aunt and Uncle Jesse Green. Way back in the 1850's, the road used to wind above the Currie home but it is all trees now, and I guess it is still owned by the Green estate; Luzerne Green was an ancestor of mine.

"I might mention another interesting subject concerning the woolen mills at Rockwell Mills over Mount Upton way. Where the 'Old Mill' owned by Rockwell McPherson stands was the mill that manufactured woolen goods. The material was used to make striped uniforms for the inmates of Auburn Prison.

"There has been many changes in Chenango County during the past eighty years; for instance, my great aunt Elizabeth Jewell Hayes once owned and lived in a house where the National Bank and Trust Co. now stands. Her husband was at one time connected with the Hayes Piano Co., whose place of business was the Piano Block on East Main Street, where the Chenango Hotel now stands.

"Harry B. Smith's home on the corner of South Broad and Front Street was where the Bresee furnture store was originally located and there used to be a meat market and shoe store where Fishman's is now. William Smith ran the shoe store and Harry Shepherd the meat market.

"If I remember correctly, we used to go up on a wooden platform to get into these two stores and there was a bakeshop, famous for its molasses and sugar cookies, where the Imperial Restaurant is located.

"The American Hotel stood where Montgomery Ward now stands, and when I was a child my parents used to stop at the Eagle Hotel, one of the most beautiful hotels around.

"I remember when the Old Ladies Home was built in 1897 or '98; Ed Elliott was the contractor; we lived at the corner of Fair and Guernsey at that time. There have been many changes throughout the years but these are just a few of the landmarks that I remember from when I was a girl."

* * *

CITY OF NORWICH

The history books called Norwich the biggest little city in New York State when it was but a village in the valley and a county trading post. It is not difficult to recapture a vision of those days, sitting on a bench in the park here in the heart of town.

Spare a few moments to look around as you sit in the shade of the gracious old maple trees. Broad Street and Main are wide and modern now, the parking meter has replaced the hitching post and the horse trough and water fountain are gone. Where horse-drawn wagons and carriages stood, shining cars are parked. Where the new gas station stands, was once an elegantly veranded Eagle Hotel.

Blocks of new stores and super markets have taken the place of gracious old homes, just as the homes took the place of log cabins and squatters' shacks.

Back in 1788 Avery Powers came and squatted in Norwich before the Indians had relinquished their claim to the land of their birth. Later Avery had to pay three shillings an acre, which is less than fifty cents, for all that he had chosen to call his own. He made a homestead on what is known as Indian Field, a mile south of Norwich.

A mile or so farther along the valley the second log cabin was built and for a good many years was known as the Breed farm. More recently it was owned by Frank Zuber who was a prosperous farmer and became Mayor of Norwich. Today these farms go by the name of Ring and Stern.

In 1779, a year after Avery Powers, came Captain Harris. His task was to survey and map out roads in this wilderness. He set out the first real road from Canasawacta Creek north to Sherburne and south to Oxford. Today besides the Creek is a delightful little park and public picnic area.

Major Thomas Brooks put up a shanty on the West Side Park in 1790 and Col. William Monroe squatted on the east side, right where Broad and Main Streets meet.

Before there were any saw mills, Judge Steere is said to have built the first frame house in Norwich on East Main Street. It was built of hewed pine logs and clap-boards that were rived and planed by hand.

About this time William Gibson settled on a farm near Norwich. Being a wheelwright, he started making spinning wheels which was the birth of an industry in our county.

By 1800, Col. Monroe, the squatter, had increased his holdings and along with Deacon Elisha Smith had built mills along in Canasawacta Creek. Along came Peter Garnsey and purchased from Elisha Smith all that part of the village north of Chapman's store to Henry Street and west across Canasawacta Creek to the foot of the western hills.

Mr. Garnsey was the generous donor of the land which is now occupied by the Courthouse and parks. He even moved his home to make room for the buildings of the Courthouse and jail and that home is now our public library.

Incidently the change in the spelling of the name Garnsey to Guernsey was the result of Peter's son's trip to Europe. There he could find no record of his family name so he decided his name must have originally been Guernsey after the name of the Channel Islands. But his father did not change the spelling of his name.

The Guersney Library is one of the county's most cherished possessions. It is a precious link with the past when thrifty and industrious citizens came to this wilderness and built lasting monuments which they bequeathed to us.

As it stands today, this charming home is bulging at the seams with books and valuables too precious to be discarded;

extra space is badly needed. This historic landmark would make a fine museum and we know that Chenango County has many generous "Peter Garnseys" who only need to know of the great need to preserve this cherished possession and carry on the unselfish generosity of the citizens of Chenango County who have gone before.

COURT HOUSE

In the center of the City of Norwich on the park stands the County Court House. It is built in the Grecian style of architecture with a colonade in front.

Court had been held in Oxford and North Norwich alternately until Norwich was declared the county seat in 1807. The legislatures then levied a tax on the free holders of the county, not to exceed $5,000 to be raised in two years.

While this subject was under consideration Peter B. Garnsey, Esq., gave the Commission about an acre and a half of land on which to erect the county buildings, and Stephen Steere, Esq., donated the other half of the spacious green on which the band pavilion stands now.

The Court House was occupied in 1809 and it had cost $6,500 considerably more than had been planned. The first jail cost $2,000 and the records show that for the year ending Nov. 2, 1868, the whole expenditure for the poor of the county amounted to $5,138.77. Quote "The cost of supporting each pauper per week was $.635."

A very interesting history could be written about our Courthouse, and the Guernsey Library contains much information.

Time was when a hanging meant a holiday for the populace of Chenango County and the surrounding areas. Old histories tell of the Dennison trial of 1813. It seems the son of a tavern keeper was shot by mistake; the bullet was meant for his father and George Dennison was sentenced to be hung for the crime. Crowds poured into Norwich before daybreak one bleak March morning and gathered on the green and along the streets to see the prisoner clad in white sitting beside his coffin on a sleigh drawn by two horses. The sleigh left the jail to go to the foot of Miller Street where the gallows had been set up; there the prisoner stood shivering in the cold while long speeches were made and the prepared ceremonies climaxed by the execution.

The following description of Norwich is taken from Spafford's Gazetteer of the State of New York published in 1824. Read in the context of subsequent events and in comparison with the Norwich of today, we thought this might be of interest.

"The village is finely seated in a spacious vale, on the point of land formed by the Canasawacta Creek and Chenango River.

"The buildings stand on handsome streets, intersecting each other at right angles and consists of about one hundred dwellings, four inns, 2 churches, a court house, a jail and clerk's office with a brick banking house. There is also a very respectable female seminary of education, some common schoolhouses and five hundred inhabitants principally of Yankee origin, sober, persevering and industrious."

"The state of this borough is much admired by travelers; surrounded by fields in high cultivation and being well supplied with pure wholesome water and having a charming and salubrious atmosphere it is one of the healthiest and pleasantest towns of the west for a summer resort. There is a mineral spring of some note about two miles from the borough said to be the sovereign remedy for the most cutaneous diseases."

"By and by when experience restores the sober senses of the community, people will wonder at the infatuation that ever located a bank in Norwich, as well as at very many other such country villages. But the evil to cure itself must operate gradually in its own way. I hope the farmers will have sense enough to keep their lands free from encumbrances held by such monied institutions. They are a heavy curse on the industry of the farming country and everybody will by-and-by adopt this opinion."

Continuing excerpts from Smith's History of Chenango and Madison counties written between 1784 and 1880.

The village was incorporated April 17, 1816.

The first President was Abner W. Warner; the first clerk William Mason. March 11, 1879 the board of trustees elected Joseph Wood, fire marshal; Albert Latham, treasurer; Charles H. Dimmick, engineer of fire steamer. Thomas H. Lewis, Hiram White, Charles E. Peacock, Dwight Cook, Charles E. Hubbard, J. D. McFarland, William Graham and Charles Brooks were appointed policemen. All these names are today, still very well known in the county.

EARLY MANUFACTURERS

Norwich is the seat of important manufacturing enterprises. At the head of these at that time was the Hammer Factory of David Maydole Co. which was started in 1840 by David Maydole and Levi Ray, Jr. At first only 3 men were employed, later as many as 120. Previous to 1864 the machinery was run by water power. In the year steam power was introduced, some 65 different sorts and sizes of hammer were made, were known and sold the world over. At that time it was the largest hammer factory in the country.

J. P. & S. C. Sawyer carried on an extensive cooperage business on the west side of the canal in the south-west part of the village, in the old Piano Shops.

The Norwich Sash and Blind Factory, located on the east bank of the canal, and north side of East Main Street, was established in 1853, by Morse & Kershaw. This was later the Scott Lumber Co. and now the Berglas Mfg. Co.

The Norwich foundry and machine shop was established in 1836 by a stock company under the name of Samuel W. Chubbuck and Co. They made several things including cook stoves, steam engines, circular saw-mills, turbine waterwheels and repairs to all kinds of machinery and in 1876 iron bridge building was added. In December of 1877, the bridge over Rexford Falls was made and erected by this firm. During the summer of 1879 five similar structures were put up.

The Guernsey Stone Mills, located on Canasawacta Creek in the west end of the village, were built in 1836, by Col. William G. Guernsey who operated them some time, later they came into possession of his nephew, William B. Guernsey who leased them to P. E. Davis who was the proprietor in 1877. They contained four run of stone, which was propelled by water from the Canasawacta Creek, with a fall of nine feet, and did a grist and merchant business. This mill is owned and operated today by the I. L. Richer Co. who have been in business a long time. And have several other mills around the county.

The first tannery was built on the site of the stone grist mill, on Canasawacta Creek on West Main Street by Truman Enos, in 1806.

The Riverside Brewery of Norwich, located on the east side of the river, was established in 1871, by A. C. Scott & Son. Four persons were employed and from 1000 to 2000 barrels of ale and lager were made per annum. This was right across from the Fair Ground.

The manufacture of pianos was once one of Norwich's principal industries. The business was established in 1838, by Edward T. Hayes. The first year Mr. Hayes made four pianos. The business increased slowly until a short time before the war when about one hundred were made per annum. This business seems to have occupied several locations, but I am wondering if it was not located on Eaton Ave., maybe where the Norwich Pharmacal Co. is now, as that was known as Piano Street until a few years ago. And the next above, Hayes St., could have been named for him. As I note several streets in Norwich have been named after the early settlers, such as Rexford St., Hale St., Henry St., Conkey Ave., Guernsey St., Beebe Ave., Birdsall St., Randall Ave., Wheeler Ave., Crandall St., and I expect there are others.

The Norwich Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Co. was organized in 1873, and did business in the Hayes and Rider piano factory and employed some fifty persons, about half of which were girls. The business was unprofitable and was discontinued.

George Wheeler, proprietor of the planing-mill and manufacturer of flower-stands and step-ladders, Mr. Wheeler bought the property of Mrs. Jane M. Guernsey. The building was erected by the Lewis Bros. who were millwrights and sold it to William Guernsey, who converted it into a grist mill and ran it as such until 1856, when he converted it into a planing-mill. Mr. Wheeler made about two hundred dozen flower-stands and step-ladders per annum. The motive power was furnished by the Canasawacta Creek. This is the Old Red Mill that still stands on Pleasant St. today.

There were several firms engaged in the manufacture of cigars at that time employing about thirty persons and making 125,000 per month.

The manufacture of carriages was an important industry in Norwich. In 1840, Roswell Avery and Charles Parker were doing business in a small way. Avery was located near the Bank

of Chenango, and subsequently on the site of the piano factory. Several others followed in this business until the horse and buggy were no more.

The Norwich Gas Light Co. was started about 1861.

The Norwich Water Works was incorporated in 1871.

The first hotel on the site of the Eagle Hotel was built about 1799 by Stephen Steere, and was kept by a man named Doty. It was afterwards kept by Mark Steere and later for a good many years by Henry DeForest. It burned on July 4th, 1849. This was known as the Eagle Tavern. It was rebuilt in 1849 by the Eagle Hotel Co. This has since burned and the site is now occupied by a gas station and Sears Roebuck Store.

The American Hotel was built in 1830 by Smith Miller. It burned several years ago and the site is now the home of The Montgomery Ward Co.

The Palmer House was built in 1830 by Nelson Carpenter. This still stands on East Main St. nearly across from the City Hall.

Spaffords Gazetteer speaks of the Spaulding House and the Adams House, their location not stated.

Norwich Academy was incorporated by the Regents of the University, February 14th, 1843. The Academy was built by subscription. Between two of the subscribers there was great strife as to which should give the most, David Griffing gave $400, and George L. Rider gave $401. William Guernsey gave the land, and consideration being $1,000. The building was completed in November, 1842, and school was opened in a week or two. The report to the Regents in 1871 shows that 221 scholars attended that year.

The first religious services in the Town of Norwich are conceded to have been held by Manasseh French, a Baptist minister, who located here as early as 1793, but remained only a few years.

Religious services were held in the Court House and in homes until in 1817 a house of worship was built on the east side of the public common in the Village of Norwich, by the Baptist Church and Society of Norwich, The first pastor was Elder Jebediah Randall. Miss Martha Randall was the first person to be baptized

in this church. The first case of discipline bears date of July 11, 1819, when James Lane was called to account for playing ball to the grief of the church. He acknowledged the offense, said he would do so no more, and the church voted satisfaction.

The First Congregational Church of Norwich was organized on the 19th of June, 1814, by Joel T. Benedict with 21 members, six of whom were baptized. The meeting was held in the Court House and other places until in 1819 their church was completed and dedicated. This church was burned in 1858, and a new one was not built until 1862. Rev. Samuel Scoville, the pastor, preached the dedicatory sermon. This building is the east part of the present church, the larger part on the west end being added in 1874.

The First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Norwich was organized in 1827. Almost immediately an effort was made to build a house of worship, but this hope was not realized until seven years later in 1834 under the ministry of Rev. Lyman Beach — when their church was built at a cost of $2,000. It stood just north of the present church and was torn down in 1874. The building of the present church was begun in 1873 during the pastorate of Rev. Wheeler. It was finished and dedicated January 14th, 1875. It is a remarkable fine brick structure capable of seating eleven hundred people. It cost $50,000. including the site, which cost $7,600.

Emanuel Church of Norwich (Episcopal) was organized in 1832, under the labors of Rev. Liberty Barrows, who was the first rector. They held their meetings in the Court House until 1834 when their first church was built west of the Palmer house which they used until their present church, which is a neat, substantial stone structure, was finished in 1875 on West Main St.

St. Paul's Church (Catholic) of Norwich was organized about 1854, by Father C. C. Brady, the first pastor. They held their meetings in their homes and in the old candle factory on Lock Street near the hammer factory until 1859 when the present church was built. An addition was made to the rear of the church in 1875, and in 1870 a lot was purchased and a parsonage erected thereon. In 1871 seven acres of land was bought for a cemetery.

The Free Will Baptist Church of Norwich was organized 1867, and a church was built in 1869. It does not state where this church was located.

The A. M. E. Zion Church of Norwich was organized in 1870, by Rev. Edward Mills who was the first pastor. Their church was built in 1871 and I believe is the one still standing on Fair Street.

The Canasawacta Lodge No. 205, I. O. O. F., was instituted as Canasawacta Lodge, No. 236, I. O. O. F., June 10, 1846.

Norwich Lodge, No. 302, F. &. A. M. was instituted June 12, 1853.

Harmony Chapter, No. 151, was instituted February 8, 1855.

Norwich Commandery, No. 46, K. T. was instituted October 6, 1869.

Chenango Valley Lodge, No. 110, I. O. G. T. was organized October 6, 1866.

The quarrying of blue stone has been quite an industry in and around Norwich in the past. There are several old quarries on the west hill west of Norwich that were worked years ago. The largest of the old ones, it is believed, is what used to be the old Drake quarry.

In the early 1900's, the large quarry on top of the hill at the end of West Main Street was opened up. I believe at first by a Mr. Ryan and later was taken over by Clarke & Conroy who did a large business for several years. At first the stone was drawn off the hill on wagons drawn by three and four horse teams, which because of the steepness of the hill was pretty risky business. They used brakes on the wagons. Also a shoe was put under the back wheel holding it so that it would slide along the ground instead of turning, which helped in holding the load back. On one trip down the hill, the shoe came off about where Charles Crandall now lives, and the two drivers of the teams were sitting on the side of the load where they could not reach the brakes, and the load pushed the horses down the hill and ended up against the framework of the bridge killing some of the horses, the men having jumped off. The stones weighed many tons. Later a dock was built on Wheeler Ave. and a track up to the quarry and the stones were let down on cars. A cable operated on a big drum at the top with brakes on it would draw the empty car back up the hill when the loaded one went down, with a switch in the center where they passed. This company had a stone mill on the end of Birdsall Street where the stones were sawed and planed into

sizes needed for building. Stone was shipped all over the country for the building of many buildings in this part of the country. Many of the buildings at Colgate and Cornell were built from this stone; also the stone church on the corner of Silver and Main in Norwich, and the stone arches over the windows in the brick block on the corner of North Broad and West Park place. Now the only quarry in operation is a small one on west hill, next to the road where the old watering trough used to be.

Among our quiet tree lined streets stone porches and terraces are still being built by families who for generations have been harvesting the handsome Chenango Blue Stone from our western hillsides.

* * *

TWENTY-ONE TOWNSHIPS OF CHENANGO COUNTY

TOWN OF AFTON

Afton was a part of Bainbridge township until November 1759 when it was separated and given the name Afton. The name was probably chosen because the beauty of the Susquehanna River brought to mind one of Burn's poems, "Flow Gently Sweet Afton."

An interesting phenomenon of the area is Pratt's Pond located about a mile northeast of the village. It is a beautiful sheet of water, a mile in circumference, elevated 25 feet above the river, which has no visible inlet or outlet, yet the waters are fresh as though constantly changing.

Elnathan Bush was the first settler to arrive in Afton. He came in 1786 with his wife and four children. They traveled as far as Cooperstown on horseback, thence by canoe down the Susquehanna. He settled on the west side of the river opposite a forty acre island owned by a Vermont Sufferer named Hezikiah Stowell, who also owned 220 acres on the east side. Bush later effected a trade with Stowell, giving his claim for one of 100 acres owned by Stowell on the west side.

Four brothers: Ebenezer, John, Isaiah and Joseph Landers came over from Lenox, Massachusetts, in 1787. They started in March when snow covered the roads, driving ox sled as far as Unadilla. There they built canoes to carry their families and goods down the river when the ice went out. Becoming impatient with waiting, they set out on foot on the crust of the snow, Ebenezer carrying a feather bed on his back and his wife bearing the youngest child, Stephen, in her arms. They reached their destination the last of March. Ebenezer afterward went back for the canoe and household goods.

A fact not generally known is that Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, lived several years in Afton from 1815 to 1827.

Newspapers flourished in Afton around 1875-1876. They were the AFTON EAGLE published by G. E. Bradt and the HOME SENTINEL, put out by John F. Seamans, which was originally an independent paper but was changed in 1878 becoming an exponent of the principles of the Greenback Party.

In 1892 the village of Afton was formally incorporated, and Dr. Philetus A. Hayes was elected its first "president" or mayor, serving without pay.

In 1890, the new series of Afton Fairs were inaugurated, with the exhibits of all manner of farm products from cattle and swine and poultry to vegetables, bake-stuffs and fancy work with merry-go-round and an array of other diversions, with balloon ascents, vaudeville acts, fireworks, and, above all, horse racing on the half mile rack. This is still a major attraction during the month of July, and well worth a trip to Afton to see.

TOWN OF BAINBRIDGE

The territory included in this township was at first claimed by Robert Harper under a grant from the Indians, but the state repudiated this title and granted it to a group of refugees known as the "Vermont Suffers." At the close of the Revolutionary War there was controversy over the borders of New York and Vermont. When part of New York was ceded to Vermont the "Sufferers" were disposed of their farms and homes and New York recompensed them by grants of land in the wild regions of central New York which was known as Jericho, and is now the Bainbridge, Afton and Brisben area.

It is hard for us to imagine the hardships and privations these people endured after being forced from comparatively comfortable homes and cultivated land to start again in a trackless wilderness. The corn which was their daily bread had to be ground by the primitive method of pestle and mortar and the nearest grist mill was eighteen miles away at Sidney. Salt was often difficult to get and Indians who were generally friendly enough to borrow a kettle or pot would return it full of salt. The source of the salt was a well guarded secret for no white folks would dare follow the Indians on these occasions.

The first settlement to be made in the township of Bainbridge was in 1789 by Caleb Bennett who came from Vermont with three brothers. Phineas Bennett was the first Supervisor of the township in 1791 and when the village was incorporated in 1829 Richard Juliand was the President.

A note of interest in the Bainbridge history is that one of the earliest physicians was Lewis Livingston of Livingston Manor, a

decendant of the Livingstons of Livingston Manor in Columbia County. He was both deaf and dumb so the long-winded recitals of his patients probably didn't bother him, and he served that community for many years.

The Grange was organized in Bainbridge in 1940 and their first meetings were held in the Town Hall. But they soon purchased their own Grange home and that was the Bainbridge Garage converted to the fine meeting hall that they named ALGONQUIN GRANGE, dedicated by State Master Harry Sherwood in 1945.

Nearby Brisben was once the scene of great activity when the canal was in operation. "Tinkerport" they called it because the boat repair shops were there. It was also called Jericho and East Greene.

Good highways from Norwich run along each side of the Chenango River to the border of the county at Afton. In the spring time as soon as the snow melts from the hills, herds of hungry deer come out of the hills, often close to the highway, and pose beautifully for camera fans.

TOWN OF COVENTRY

Simon Jones and his cousin, Benjamin, were the first to settle in Coventry. William Goodell and Andrew Clark came about that time and didn't stay and little is recorded of them. Simon Jones cleared his land in 1785, and stayed there until his death in 1817. Simon's cousin, who arrived three years later, also came from Coventry and in 1788 acquired 250 acres of land and built the first tavern in town.

Benjamin Jones joined the Revolutionary Army at the age of 18. After he came to Coventry, he became one of the district's first officers, and later he was elected to the State Assembly. He was also instrumental in securing the formation of the township. Through his influence, it was named after his former home, Coventry, Connecticut.

In connection with town meetings of those days it is interesting to note that fence viewers were always on the board as well as one or two pound masters who were commissioned to keep stray dogs and pigs in place.

Another of the early arrivals was Deacon Philo Minor, a bachelor, who made a clearing and built a cabin and then returned to Connecticut to marry. The young couple returned and set up housekeeping in the new cabin. There is a story that Polly, the young wife, went off on horseback to have some weaving done. As there were no roads except for the log trails, she took the wrong one and became lost. When darkness and rain overtook her, she climbed a tree lugging her saddle up with her. There she spent the night whacking her stirrups together to keep the howling wolves away.

TOWN OF COLUMBUS

Columbus was formerly part of Brookfield in Madison County and was separated from it in 1805. The many sparkling streams of pure water and gravelly loam is well adapted to dairying, and at one time there were eight cheese factories in the township of Columbus alone.

The distinction of being the first settler goes to Col. Converse who came in 1781 and built the first tavern which he opened in 1793. Next on the scene were the William brothers — Daniel James, Benjamin and Henry (a Revolutionary War soldier). In the early spring of 1792 they came with ox team and their featherbeds. Henry and James were married. Henry had two children but they left the little families in Edmeston while they came to build a log cabin, which they are said to have done in two days. They all lived in this cabin while the others were being built.

Nathaniel Calkin and Gates Pope arrived later and erected and operated a brick kiln which enabled the settlers to have chimneys instead of a hole in the roof. Outdoor ovens, too, greatly improved the standard of living of these struggling pioneers.

Not all who came to Chenango County enjoyed the rugged austerity of backwood life. One young man, William Button (a carpenter) bought a lot in 1800, built a house and because he had a little education he taught school in the winter. But like city folk who even today come to the country with dreams of independence without hard work, Bill Button, the carpenter, sold all he had and went back to the big city and was never heard of again.

TOWN OF GREENE

Stephen Ketchum was the first settler in the Village of Greene. He came by ox-team and wagon from Saratoga County as far as Oxford; from there he came on a raft down the river. It is said that he was a man of great energy and good nature — well fitted for the hardships of pioneer life. His rude cabin was not actually a public house but a veritable haven of hospitality to the weary travelers who passed that way.

Next to arrive in the fall of the year was a group of Frenchmen with their families who had fled from the terrors of the revolution in their mother country. Chas. Felix de BoLyne, who came ahead, purchased 15,000 acres on the east side of the Chenango River and divided it into 150 lots. A road was built and rude dwellings erected from material at hand. Small patches of land were cleared and cultivated but the whole enterprise was abandoned within four years and the refugees left by boat down the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers to Pennsylvania where a new settlement was started in less rugged terrain.

Meantime other settlers were arriving mostly from New England; determined and energetic men more suited to pioneering than the French had been, and the struggles of the first few years were appalling. Roads were mere Indian trails and the nearest mill was sixty miles away by canoe, a trip of several days, so they ground their corn by pounding it into samp with a pestle and mortar made by hollowing a section of a log and suspending a pestle from a sweep.

The first town meeting was held in the home of Conrad Sharp in 1798. Elisha Smith was the first merchant to open a store in 1803 in a frame building that was also his home. Greene Post Office was established in 1807 and was a station on a mail route extended from Cooperstown via Oxford to Binghamton, then known as Chenango Point. At first the mail was carried on horseback weekly but in 1819 a stage route was formed that stopped twice a week on its way from Utica to Binghamton.

Here is a specimen of advertising from the 1855 Chenango American.

"Charles Whitlock advises the public that he has tallow on hand at all times for sale cheap."

"Lyon Iron Works sells caldron kettles and Dog Powers." (a sort of treadmill.)

"J. W. Carter is a dealer in hats, caps, furs and buffalo robes."

An interesting sidelight on the early social life of the community is given in Dr. Purple's account of a meeting of the Eastern Light Lodge, F. & A. M. which was organized in 1811. Meetings were held on the second floor of a tavern. "The Lodge," says Dr. Purple, "was invariably called from labor to refreshment when all the members repaired to the dining room where they stood around a table bountifully supplied with bread, butter, cheese, cakes, pies, etc., never forgetting one or more kind of ardent spirits." It was the duty of the steward to order this refreshment from the tavern host and to collect 12½ cents from each member to pay for it.

Visitors in Greene should by all means include a call at the Moore Memorial Library. This handsome building, with the lot on which it stands, was a gift to the Village of Greene from Mrs. Nathaniel Moore and her two sons, Judge William H. and James Hobart Moore. Construction was begun in 1901 and the library was formally opened the following year. The marble steps and mosaic floor, the gracious pillars and oil paintings have an air of old-world luxury. The sum of $130,000 enabled the planners not only to erect this elegant library but also to provide furnishings and 5,000 books. Over the years, through able management of devoted Boards of Trustees and skillful librarians, the services of the library have expanded enormously. Mr. Fred Dennison, publisher of the CHENANGO AMERICAN, contributed the complete file of that paper from its first issue in 1855 all in bound volumes. As local history, this gift is of great value and interest. It is kept in the Reference Room and will be added to as the years go by.

TOWN OF GERMAN

German township once had a population of 2,500, and now has only 150. The coming of machinery to the hillside farms has drastically changed their methods of farming. The hilly farms are being abandoned or transferred to the State for reforestation while the level valley farms are producing much more with less manual labor.

German was once part of DeRuyter and derived its name from General Obadiah German. Originally in 1793, this tract of land was known as Brackle Township and the first claimer was John W. Watkins.

Abraham Livermore, a native of Pelham, Mass., and Bennet Cleveland, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, are said to have been the first to really settle in the vicinity in 1795.

Livermore brought his wife and nine children as far as Oneida County and left them there while he, with an axe on his shoulder, made his way through the forest by means of marked trees. In German village he took up 156 acres, made a clearing and built a log cabin.

All that summer his only home was some brush piled underneath a wild cherry tree; in the fall he returned to Oneida and brought back his family.

Benjamin Cleveland, also from Oneida County, came a couple of years later and located on land near the Livermores and his daughter, Polly, was the first white child in the township. These two families, so remote from other settlements, suffered incredible hardships and at times were starving. Lonely little cemeteries with nameless field stones as markers could bear record of many who gave up the struggle when quite young.

TOWN OF GUILFORD

It is hard to imagine that this little village was once a wilderness covered with a thick forest of hemlock trees.

In 1795, a man named John Dibble started westward with his wife and four children to find a piece of land (100 acres) given to him by the Government.

In December, while crossing the Chenango River near Sherburne, their ox team and sled broke through the ice. Much of their goods and gunpowder was lost. After drying off, they went on, and on Christmas Eve camped on what is now New Virginia Road. During the night, one of the oxen died. They pressed on with only one oxen to draw their sled rather than stay and be eaten by wolves. On Christmas morning, a cold and hungry family looked down into a valley where stood a small cabin in a clearing. They found no footprints and only an empty

building, but it was home and proved to be the piece of land for which Mr. Dibble was looking. He built a trading post here, and other settlers soon came. They named the settlement Fayetteville, which later was changed to Guilford, because of the many settlers came from Guilford, Connecticut.

Soon other settlers began to build cabins and Mr. Dibble built an inn. This was also a stagecoach stop. The stage had two lines, each of which made a round trip daily. In 1866 Guilford had four mails a day and letter postage was ten cents.

Guilford has one of the highest points in Chenango County, from it one can see seven counties and into Pennsylvania.

Try to imagine what it would be like to go school barefooted, follow a narrow trail, which is now our main street and which was lined on either side with dark heavy hemlocks. The school was where the Methodist Church now stands, and across the street was a swamp called Bear Wallow because so many bears lived there. The children were often afraid to go to school because the echo of their bare feet tramping along the trail would startle a bear or panther and cause them to hit the trail.

In 1800 a schoolhouse was built near where the Ives Settlement Cemetery is today. The first teacher was Lyman Ives and his wages were seven dollars a month. The first sermon in town was preached in the same school in 1801. A whole year passed before there was another sermon.

There were at least two blacksmith shops; one was back of the Stead's home, the other near the Ireland home. The first grist mill was built in 1800 and stood just below the lake, or as it was called, Cabel's Pond. In 1819, sixteen year old Elsworth Phelps made the first pipe organ west of the Hudson River in his little factory which was located on the Joslyn farm. When word of the new organ reached the ears of promoters they came to Guilford on horseback to see the new instrument. Phelps, who had no money, sold his interests and the first organ to be made by the new company was sold in Oxford.

The last Indians to live here in Guilford were Oneidas and their names were Matthews. Their home was on the Ives Settlement Road.

The first doctor to live in Guilford was Dr. John Clark who came here on horseback in 1833. He served here for over forty years. His son, R. M. Clark, took over his father's practice and also served until his death in the early 1900's.

The Episcopal Church was organized in 1830 and the Methodist Church in 1841. The Baptist Church, which stood where the restaurant is today, was started in 1843.

The Guilford wireworks was established in 1845 in a building previously erected for a plaster mill; it was also used for a cotton-batten factory. This building was swept away by the flood of 1855. In that same year another building was erected which became known as a general foundry and machine shop. This employed a number of workmen and did a flourishing business under the management of the Merchant family. The building was located where Sylstra's dairy barn now stands. Near the foundry was a larger carpenter and joiner shop with a planing, matching, and shingle mill. Wagon shops, butter tub and cheese box manufacturers, carding mills, wool mills, all have had their time in Guilford.

The building of the Oxford and Catskill turnpike started in 1805. Settlers came in mostly with ox teams and land was bought for three dollars an acre. The road from Guilford Center to the Old Four Corners (now a portion of the Guilford-Norwich road) was built in 1807. The Pillars at Guilford Center, now a tavern, is one of the oldest buildings in this area, having been built in 1805. It was an inn and stagecoach stop in those days, the road coming down over the hill back of what is now known as Joe's store. Another stagecoach road was down Creamery Hill, the stop being the tavern built by John Dibble in 1795.

The Ontario and Western Railroad, then called Midland Railroad, was started in 1868. The first passenger train was run from Norwich to Sidney in 1870. Although the Chenango Canal was opened in May 1835, for Guilford the railroad was the most valuable means of transportation.

A dam at the lake burst in August 1855 and the water swept nearly everything before it. It happened in the night and a man nearby jumped on his horse and rode through the village warning the people. Many families had to seek shelter on higher ground until the danger passed.

In those days, pork was 8c a pound, veal 5c a pound and a mason received 50c a day.

In 1864 a fire broke out in the wagon shop near where the milk bottling plant now stands. Guilford had only a bucket brigade, so two stores, a blacksmith shop, a dwelling house and the post office were burned. The second fire 33 years later destroyed the same corner and 10 years later a fire swept this corner destroying a new opera house and drug store.

The town once boasted a newspaper called THE GUILFORD MAIL, edited and printed by a man named Adrian Robinson. He was an epileptic and only finished the fourth grade in school. He was a bachelor and lived with his maiden sister. They would never have survived had it not been for the help of the townspeople. How he was ever able to get a small paper together, printed on an old hand press, has always been a mystery!

The first election was held in 1807 with thirty voters present.

Mr. Abel Cornell, owner of a tin and sheet iron works in 1850, invented tin squirrel cages, which were sold with the squirrels in them in New York City markets. A cooper's dowelling machine was invented by N. R. Merchant and patented by his son. These machines were manufactured here by the thousands and sold in all parts of the country. Some notable residents of Guilford are The Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson who commenced his law practice in Guilford Center, was elected State Senator, and was made a judge and elected Lieutenant Governor of the State. Then United States Senator, Dr. Rufus W. Gilbert who invented the first elevated railroad in New York City, and Hon. Guy Phelps became a member of Congress from San Francisco and Collector of the Port of that city. Hon. Samuel A Smith was twice elected Assemblyman from the Guilford district.

TOWN OF LINCKLAEN

This township was once part of German and was separated in 1823. It was named for Col. John Lincklaen an agent of the Holland Land Company which was in the real estate business in a big way when this part of the county was virgin forest. Col. Lincklaen also founded Cazenovia.

Three brothers Deacon, Elisha and Jesse Catlin were the first settlers and for a long time Lincklaen was known as Catlin Settlement. For a while Jesse lived in a log cabin near his brothers then moved to Pennsylvania but Elisha stayed on and built a tavern and saw mill.

Another little note of interest from Lincklaen's historical record tells that in 1865 the population of the township was 988. There were ten common school districts. The average attendance was 140, and the amount expended for school purposes $1,693.56.

TOWN OF McDONOUGH

McDonough was another township that had its start by being separated from a nearby neighbor, Preston, and was named for Commodore MacDonough of the U. S. Navy.

The land is well drained by numerous streams, a fine lake covering 150 acres and a mile and a half long is located in the west part of the township.

Several families arrived here in 1795 and their names are still familiar all over the county — Moore, Talmadge, Locke, Burke, Willard and Ludlow.

Sylvanus Moore is notable among these because he managed without money or personal property to acquire 1100 acres of land free of debt before he had been here very long. His land was thickly covered with beech, maple, basswood and ash, from which he first made a log cabin for himself then cleared a spot for crops. When fall came, he went to Oxford and taught school. Next he found himself a wife and helpmate, Elizabeth Curtis, and together they not only enlarged their cabin but when the road to Ithaca was built they opened their home as a tavern and resting place for the immigrants that were passing through in search of land on which to build homes and make new lives for themselves and families. Later Sylvanus and Betty bought a saw mill and started the lumber business, and McDonough is still the home of fine wood products including readymade homes by Ivan Ford and Company.

John F. Hill was the first merchant in the village arriving from Athol in 1820 and later was appointed postmaster.

McDonough is a thriving community and the home of a new State Park, which is well along in the progress of construction.

TOWN OF MOUNT UPTON

Mount Upton is a small village of about 150 inhabitants located on the Unadilla River about 8 miles southeast of Norwich on Route 8. In 1810 the first hotel was built here and at one time there were a grist mill, saw mill, harness shop, two blacksmith shops, a factory making carriages and hearses, an undertaker, a boot and shoe shop and three cooper shops, all of which depended on the water power of the Unadilla River.

A meeting house was built about 1835 and a Baptist Church about 1876.

Street lights in the late 1800's and early 1900's were oversized kerosene lanterns set on posts about five feet high, located near the footpath around the village. Halsey Godfrey was the lamplighter and he would clean and fill them every morning and light them at dusk. About 1910 Mr. Rockwell and Mr. Jewell installed a large Delco lighting plant with many storage batteries to furnish electricity for the street lights only.

The Unadilla Railway was built through Mount Upton and served this part of the county for nearly a hundred years, and has but recently been discontinued.

Right up until 1925 Mount Upton was known as a horse trading center. People came from miles around to buy, sell and swap horses, wagons, harnesses, etc. Before the railways were built the market was supplied by importing horses from Canada. As many as twenty horses would be hitched together and a man riding the leader would bring them by way of Ogdensburg and across the ferry. The trip must have taken all of a week.

When the first good road was built through the village, the stones were taken from the river bed when the water was low and signs were put up asking everyone to refrain from driving in the tracks to avoid making the ruts any deeper. A far cry from the hardtop roads of today!

Lady Upton, a famous race horse, lived, worked and played here for forty-three long years and she has a monument on her grave in her own cemetery.

TOWN OF NEW BERLIN

The first warning light north out of the City of Norwich is route 320, which starts at Wood's Corners a rapidly growing industrial area by the river.

A few miles up the road is King's Settlement and it is here that George King and his brother John, son's of Captain John King of Cambridge, Mass., came in 1795 with their families.

This part of the county was thickly wooded wilderness and the only roads inland from the rivers were trails marked by the woodsmen ax. Bears, panthers and wolves that hunted in packs inhabitated the forests.

A little church still stands right opposite where the Kings built their first cabin. They started to clear the land along this lovely valley and soon other hardy pioneers arrived. One of the first is said to be Elijah Buel who came from Dutchess County on horse back with his rifle, an ax and a pair of saddle bags. William and Zervia Tiffany were named among the first settlers too.

Over the hills to New Berlin is one of the most scenic drives in the county and in the fall the hills are a blaze of colour.

The names of the early settlers in New Berlin is headed by Dave Scribner who took possession of land about two miles below the village on the west side of the river. Silas Burlingame, Samuel Andersen and Asa Angel are said to have come around the same time in the 1790s.

The story goes that Dave Scribner was attracted to the spot he settled on by the fine apple trees that were growing there which had been planted by the Indians. Although he planted bushels of dried apples he was not successful but other parts of the county had orchards and cider mills.

Before electricity came to lighten labor the rivers and creeks were the richest source of power and along the river in New Berlin to South New Berlin prosperous industries thrived. Besides the usual saw mill and grist mill there was a paper mill, a woolen factory and a cloth and carding establishment. An iron foundry made plough points and sleigh shoes and box stoves. There was a tannery and distillary where good rye was converted into whiskey so we are told.

The latest promising industry to spring up in New Berlin is a revolutionary way of growing mushrooms out doors, a great future is predicted for this unusual enterprise.

TOWN OF SOUTH NEW BERLIN

Near the crossroads of Routes 80 and 23 on the border of the County stands the I. O. O. F. Hall where the Unadilla Valley Grange holds its regular meetings.

Back in 1887 this building was a general store run by two brothers. It changed hands several times and was used as a school house when the regular school house burned down. Thirty years ago the I. O. O. F. Association purchased this sturdy old building to use for the meetings of the order. Later the United States Post Office rented the lower floor and, as thus, it can be easily identified.

Unadilla Valley Grange will long be remembered for spear heading the opposition to the building of a dam at nearby Mount Upton. When the valley was threatened with flooding should a dam be built, the Great Brook Watershed Association was organized and is still functioning with field days and demonstrations of conservation practices.

TOWN OF NORTH NORWICH

North Norwich lies near the center of the county and the terrain is rolling uplands divided by the valley of the Chenango River. The summits of the hills rise from 200 to 600 feet above this and the Whapanaka and Thomson Brooks from the east drain the soil that is gravelly slaty loam mixed in some places with clay, this accounts for the fine market gardens in that area.

The town had its heigh-day in the 1860 when the railway was being built and the town contained two churches, three stores, a hotel, wagon shop, grist mill, cider mill, cheese factory and had about one hundred inhabitants.

The township at one time included Plasterville and Kings Settlement beside North Norwich, with an area of 17,382 acres, and had a population of 1,068 back in 1865. Nine school districts had an enrollment of 298 children and the average attendance of 134.

The Grange in North Norwich was formed in 1913 and its meetings are still held in an old building that has stood since the beginning of the county's history.

Good old fashioned dinners are served here whenever funds are needed for a community project and the fireman's dinners are famous for miles around.

There is a sad story of a General Obediah German who settled in North Norwich by the juction of the Chenango River in 1776. He built a trading post where the Grange Hall now stands and with the river for transportation and sons to help he soon had more than one store.

Obediah's son was running this store in 1812 when he was inducted into the army and his brother took over the business till his return. But, the soldier did not return and it is said that he was a traitor to his country and was tried and hung. The broken hearted parents and family lost interest in their flourishing business and lost even their farm. The day of the General's funeral the grief stricken wife was found hanged in an apple tree.

TOWN OF OTSELIC

The Township of Otselic was formed from part of German in 1817 and it was settled after other towns along the Chenango and Unadilla Rivers, probably owing to its remoteness from the main highway between Sherburne, Norwich and points north and south.

Around 1800 Ebenizah Hill came from Syracuse, or Salt Point, as it was called and built a tavern and was very prosperous for several years so he also built a saw mill on the west side of the Otselic River.

David Stoddard is said to have been the next arrival, coming from Litchfield, Connecticut. He cleared a large parcel of land near Hill's place and at the same time was doing a very good business buying and driving cattle.

But the oft-unsung brave wives of these ambitious men contributed much to the actual settling of the land. For instance, Mrs. Stoddard had to have more than the average amount of courage as well as ability. While here husband was away driving

cattle to and from markets she had to take over the management of the farm, which was only partly cleared, and leave her log cabin in the night to drive away wolves which were after her calves and lambs, to mention nothing of stray Indians and peddlers.

The post office was established in 1830 with Dr. Norman Ford as the postmaster. Dr. Ford was evidently a man of many parts. He owned and ran a tavern in town for several years and was the first physician in town although he was handicapped by spinal trouble that had crippled him since childhood.

There is heartening evidence of religious tolerance in the early days of South Otselic which was rather rare in those times for it is recorded that at one time Methodists, Baptists, and Universalists shared the same church for their services.

An English Colonel, William Coley, is said to be one of the first settlers of Otselic and his son, George, was the first merchant.

The active Grange members of the 1940's purchased the building from the C. C. C. camps in McDonough and built themselves a fine hall. We Grangers shall long remember the suppers, auctions and programs of South Otselic.

TOWN OF OXFORD

The first settler in Oxford was Elijah Blackman who came from Connecticut in 1789. He settled on a spot now known as Fort Hill. After building a log cabin, he returned to Connecticut and brought his family back to Oxford.

Benjamin Hovey of Massachusetts had signed up for a land grant in Chenango County and came here with his family in 1790. That spring Mr. Blackman went up the river a mile and a half and purchased 100 acres of flat land from Mr. Hovey. The same Blackman farm is now directly across from the Georgetown Road. Mr. Blackman had an adopted daughter, Polly Knapp, who married Col. Samuel Balcom, Balcom is still a well known name in Chenango County.

Oxford Academy was founded in 1793 and it existed for over a hundred years as a private institute of learning before being merged into the free school system.

Six times the site of the Academy has been changed. The first building in the fall of 1792 stood on Washington Park on the property formerly owned by C. L. Hallock. It was a frame building and Uri Tracy from Yale became its first principal. This building also served as the first post office in this region. The second building was erected near the present Episcopal rectory in 1799, but was burned down before it could be occupied. The following year a third building was erected on the same site, and six years later it was moved to a site on Merchant and Greene Street opposite the present Knapp property. The fourth time the Academy was re-erected the site where the Baptist Church now stands was chosen, and a fine dome and a new bell surmounted the edifice. That bell is atop of the present school building. The fifth building was constructed in 1854 on the same site as it is now. A year later a large hall three stories high with an attic and a basement was built on the left side of the school building and was probably the largest single building in Oxford. This was used as a boarding house for teachers and students. Each room was equipped with a wood burning stove, and despite such a fire hazard, the structure outlived its usefulness without damage by fire. It was torn down in 1929 to make room for a new school building which was completed in one year. Oxford was the first Central School District in Chenango County.

Among the first houses to be built in Oxford were the Packard and Glover residences. James Glover came from Connecticut in 1802 and built his house just north of the present Bida Home. He also established a blacksmith shop in which David Maydole, founder of the famous Maydole Hammer Factory in Norwich, served his apprenticeship. At the Packard residence in 1948 a three-day auction of antiques was held and then the buildings were torn down. This was once the showplace of Oxford and was located near the Episcopal Church.

The Gaston home, built in 1846 on Fort Hill, is a familiar landmark in Oxford. Nelson Chapman, the first owner, lived there from 1846 to 1856. This is now the Seymour Funeral Home.

Another landmark, which many will recall, was the Fletcher Mill which stood on the river bank just south of the river bridge.

Theodore Burr, a cousin of Aaron Burr, was given authorization by the state in 1793 to build a dam and mill. The dam was put in that year and the mill built soon after. This feed mill served Oxford for many years. In later years it was owned by Sarah Fletcher Jacobs who was at one time United States Marshal. This same mill building also housed the OXFORD REVIEW TIMES printing offices for a number of years until it was ordered torn down by the state to make room for the new bridge and flood control project.

Theodore Burr constructed the first bridge in Oxford about 1800, as well as the building which is now the Town Library on Fort Hill.

The old Park Hotel, built in 1802 by Erastus Perkins, was located on Washington Park. It served hundreds of people for a century but was destroyed by fire October 28, 1903. After repairs it was made into an apartment house.

The Citizen's Opera House, better known as the Citizen's Theater, was built in 1888 by a stock company and October 16 was formally opened by the Ladies Village Improvement Society with a play, "She Stoops to Conquer." In 1893 William M. Miller purchased the building and placed the executive management in the hands of Harry Tew. Under his direction the theater became known for its high class productions. The managers were James Glover, George Stafford and H. C. Bartlett. June 14, 1929, the building burned to the ground and the Victory Chain store now stands in its place.

Oxford Grange was organized in the year 1900 at a meeting held in Harrington Hall and the first officers were elected and installed in August of that year. According to the records, this Grange has been very active and at one time the ladies degree team, with State Master F. J. Freestone,, initiated 70 candidates.

SOUTH PLYMOUTH AND PLYMOUTH

South Plymouth, as we know it today, was once called Frinkville and was settled by Ebenezer Frink who came with his family from New England in 1799 to claim a grant of land. They were cold and hungry, and the ox team got stuck in the mud. At this time, Patience, his wife, was praying for help when a tall Indian stepped out of the woods with upraised hand as a sign of peace.

He led them into the woods to a hummock of ground just above the rapids where fire and food were available. This is where the feed store and post office now stands.

The second highway to be built in Chenango County was from Norwich to Stewarts Corners and was constructed by Mont and Kemper of Utica as contractors. They hired 150 Italians who worked with pick and shovel 10 hours a day and 6 days a week for $4.00. This was formerly a plank road some of which were 12 to 15 feet long. When they were ripped up, farmers used them for barn flooring and some may still be seen in that vicinity today.

By the South Plymouth bridge at that time was an old building, which was formerly a milk and cheese factory. The road builders used this as a bunkhouse, and they bathed in the willow-shaded creek. All day long they would watch the woodchucks along the banks, and at the end of day would work in pairs to dig them out of their holes. A large scalding kettle would hold ten or twelve chucks. This, along with vegetables and long loaves of Italian bread, made a royal meal. A year later when the road was completed, it isn't likely there was a woodchuck left between Norwich and Stewarts Corners.

Later in 1894 William Stewart ran the grist mill at South Plymouth along the Canasawacta Creek. He was also postmaster, and the office was in the same building. He carried a line of groceries and dry goods. In 1917 William Stewart resigned, and his son, Leon, took over. At the present time another Stewart is postmaster and storekeeper. This is the third generation to run a general store there. At one time a tavern in South Plymouth was also run by Stewart.

A little farther along the creek is Kirk, where once there was a flourishing cheese factory. The farmers lined up each morning with their horses and rigs to have their milk dumped into large vats in the factory; then they would drive around to the whey trough and fill their cans with whey to take home for their pigs.

Charles Stewart ran a general store that carried everything; plug tobacco sliced off with a sharp cutter; horse collars, calico cloth, groceries and cow feeds. Elmer Stewart, ran a dairy farm close by, and these Stewarts were among the first settlers that came from Stonington, Connecticut.

In 1794, a Col. Walker settled just north of South Plymouth which at that time was known as Frankville. He is said to have built a barn one hundred feet long to accomodate his workmen as well as cattle. The usual saw mill and grist mill were soon in operation here, and when a fever epidemic raged, this community was considered fortunate in having two physicians, Jesse Grant and Cyrus French.

As early as 1815 there was a post office in what is now Plymouth and two of the oldest farms were the Morley and Cushman farms. The fine old homes and buildings are still standing.

An abandoned saw mill now stands on what was once the site of the cabin occupied by a poor settler named John Young, chiefly remembered for being the father of Brigham Young, who was to become the founder of the Mormon Church.

Plymouth Grange played an active part in the growing and active community and was started as early as 1869. George Cushman, who joined Plymouth Grange in 1894, was the only State Master to come from Chenango County.

A growing vacation spot in the hills is Plymouth Reservoir. When the mills were built along Canasawacta Creek, the reservoir was dammed to provide more water power to supply these mills. When the mills were abandoned, the reservoir soon became a great fishing and camping site. Dr. Blinn Harris, owner of the land, raised the height of the dam to make the reservoir much larger. Trees and stumps that had been under water for a century were removed and salvaged. With the coming of electricity to this secluded spot, many Norwich residents immediately built summer homes around this lovely lake in the highlands of Chenango County.

TOWN OF PRESTON

The history of Preston is closely interwoven with the Grange. Maple Leaf Grange was organized in 1881 by J. B. Whiting of Seneca Falls. Meetings were held in Roger's Hall until 1896 and afterwards held in the Universalists Church. In 1900 this Grange was disbanded but in 1931 it was reorganized by Deputy State Master Leland Smith as Preston Grange No. 1520. The

first meetings were held in the church basement and in 1935 the present Grange Hall was purchased, and the mortgage burned in 1937. In 1961 twenty-one of the thirty-five charter members were presented with Silver Anniversary pins.

The town of Preston claims among its early settlers a distinguished couple, Daniel and Maria Louise Wagner, brother and sister artists. Their father, Frederick Wagner, came to Chenango County in 1803. Daniel was afflicted with a hip disease and spent most of his boyhood in bed, as the disease was considered incurable in those times. With the help of his sister Maria, he developed talent as an artist and in a covered wagon they traveled from Utica to Binghamton and from Ithaca to Albany, the state capital, painting portraits and miniatures. Under the patronage of William Seward, the Governor, they went to Washington and painted a portrait of President Madison. In 1870 they returned to the home of their youth and conducted art classes. Their miniatures are priceless collectors' items today.

The largest poultry farm in the County probably in upper New York State is in Preston. When Lewis Dunckel's laying house burned down neighbors for miles around said they could smell the chicken barbecue for days. But, with dauntless courage of the pioneers, he has built bigger and better and welcomes visitors to this modern egg factory where 100,000 hens produce truck loads of eggs daily.

TOWN OF PITCHER

Pitcher contains a whole tract of land originally patented to John Watkins and known as the "Gore." Nestled among the hills, with wide fertile valleys, it is a very pleasant township on the northwest border of the county, and had its heyday when sulphur springs and health spas were popular.

In 1781, four homesteaders blazed their way from Oxford and for several years that was their only pathway out of the wilderness. The usual pattern was followed of clearing a patch, building a log cabin, then a tavern, to invite newcomers to share the opening up of a new territory.

Curtis Beach, from Trumbull, Connecticut, bought a piece of land already cleared with a small log cabin on it and brought his family with two ox teams to Pitcher in the dead of winter.

Arriving at their destination they discovered the cabin literally buried in snow and some neighbors helped them to find it and to dig a pathway to the cabin, while his wife and family sat huddled on the sleds. These are little stories to remember when the huge snow plows open our roads even before the snowstorm is over.

Zalmon Fairchild, a son of the first settlers in Pitcher, started as the first merchant with all his merchandise in one trunk. Soon he was trading in a small frame building and continued in business for fifty years and then sold out to O. F. Forbes. There was no post office in Pitcher until 1841 when Clark Lyons was appointed postmaster and served continuously for 20 years.

At the crossroads, a verandaed hotel still stands, a shell of its former prosperous days, and nearby is a fine stone house that tells of the people who came to stay and built to last.

PHARSALIA, NORTH PHARSALIA

Twelve miles from Norwich, along the Canasawacta Creek, is Pharsalia, founded in 1880. It was once a thriving country town with two churches, a school, hotel and store, post office and a grist mill, besides a newspaper called the QUILL AND PRESS.

The first fishline factory was located here but was later moved to South Otselic where it is now known as the B. F. Gladding Fishline Factory, and known all over the world.

A sturdy relic of the 1800's in the old Frink Tavern, still standing on the Kirk-North Pharsalia road, one mile from North Pharsalia. This tavern was built in 1829 by Hiram Frink, son of Nathan Frink, who came from Stonington, Connecticut, by oxcart in 1801. The tavern was built on the old plank road that connected Norwich with South Otselic and was considered the last word in luxury for hostelries of that name, with extensive dining room facilities, a huge ballroom and numbered bedrooms. Years, later, a Dr. Greenleaf bought the property and built a summer house over the mineral spring across the road from the tavern, and the place became a popular health resort, but remained in the Frink family most of the ensuing years.

Now the Y. M. C. A. has a camp a little farther along the road and then on the winding road known as Brackle is the Cor-

rection Camp for Boys, where youthful offenders get another chance and learn conservation practices while getting re-habilitated. Not long ago it was a C. C. C. camp built in the 1930's and the trees planted for reforestation at that time are a mighty forest, in which blueberry pickers sometimes get lost.

A little farther along the road is a tiny hamlet of Pharsalia, which the settlers called Stonington, after the place they came from around 1797. Seven years later it was re-named Pharsalia. Among the first known settlers were Prentice and Jairus Frink and Sanford Morgan. Mr. Morgan opened the first store and Post Office in 1825. The mail was carried on horseback for many years.

TOWN OF SHERBURNE

The Town of Sherburne, located in the northern part of Chenango County, was a part of the Whitestown purchase made by Governor Clinton from the Indians and is known as the "Governor's Purchase." The act authorizing the surveying was passed February 25, 1779 and the land was advertised for sale in 1791.

The first party of settlers, consisting of twenty families, arrived in the spring of 1793, having spent the winter in Norwich. The price of the land was $1.25 per acre and was purchased from William S. Smith, whose wife was the daughter of John Adams, who was the second president of the United States. The original settlers are commemorated by a monument at the center of the Village of Sherburne.

The name of the Town of Sherburne is now a matter of discussion. Some believe the name Sherburne came from a hymn; others after Captain Sherburne, who received his land as a grant for his service in the Revolutionary War and one of the first settlers; others after a town in Massachusetts.

Exactly one hundred years ago in 1862 Joel Hatch, Jr., published "Reminiscences of Sherburne." A copy of this lively factual little book was donated to the Sherburne Public Library by a D. M. Raymond in 1905.

In the front of the book is posted a neatly hand-written sheet of music with the title of, "Sherbourne" C. M. Daniel Read 1700.

The words are, "While shepherds watched their flock by night." This is the hymn that the town is said to have been named for.

The location of the village was a decision made by the early settlers. Some wanted the village at the junction of Handsome Brook and the Chenango River, and the first church was built there. Others wanted it where Sherburne West Hill is now located. The first town meeting was held there. However with the opening of the Utica-Binghamton road which crossed the Homer-Cooperstown road at the present four corners, it was decided to build the village there.

Sherburne has always been a prosperous community with saw mills, a tannery, cheese factories, machine shops, and a wool carding plant as early as 1804, a sash and blind factory, and a pottery whose wares bearing the name of "Hart" can be found in use today. Both a knitting and a carding mill have operated here employing many people. Today many are employed in the large antenna factory.

The trend to modern transportation came to Sherburne in 1837 with the completion of the Chenango Canal. The rear of one of Sherburne's building blocks shows the type of construction then used to facilitate the use of canal barges. The Utica and Binghamton Railroad completed in 1867, shortly was to erase the use of the canal in 1876. The railroads as we know them today, the O &. W. and the Erie Lackawanna were to serve this area faithfully until the advent of the modern highways and trucks; the O. & W. has but recently ceased to operate.

The present water works was built in 1881.

Sherburne has been blessed with adequate church services since its first settler arrived in Sherburne. The Congregational Church was built at the Sherburne Quarter in 1803 and was moved south on North Main Street to the location of the Sherburne Farm Machinery, in 1810 and was used there until 1858 when the edifice was sold to the Catholics and the Congregationalist moved to their present location. The new church was destroyed by fire in 1880 and the present brick structure was built in 1883.

The Village Baptist services were first held in the Old Academy Building at the corner of Church and Classic Streets,

as were many other services, and the present meeting house was built in 1838.

The Methodist-Episcopal Church was organized March 12th, 1839.

St. Malachy's Catholic Church was organized in 1848 at the home of Timothy O'Brien at the quarter and purchased the former Congregational Church in 1858. The Catholic Church of today located on East Main and Classic Street is one of the show places of the town.

Christ Episcopal Church began its services in the Old Academy Building and a plot of land was purchased in 1829 from Samuel Williams. The original meeting house was completed in 1831 with several renovations being made to the original edifice

The Faith Baptist Church, located at the Sherburne Quarter, is relatively new being organized in later years by the worshippers of the Village Baptist Church due to religious disagreements.

There is also recorded other religious beliefs such as the Presbyterian, Universalist, and north of the town is the summer camp of the Assembly of God.

Through the generosity of civic-minded people Sherburne today has the Pratt-Newton Home, Sherburne Public Library, and a community athletic field and swimming pool.

Sherburne's large school has over 1,000 students. Its new grade school building, is located on Chapel Street.

One of the yearly attractions to this community is the Annual Pageant of Bands, sponsored by the Sherburne Central School, the Sherburne Fire Department and the community which attracts nearly 2,000 musicians and over 10,000 spectators.

SHERBURNE FOUR CORNERS

David Wilbur and his young wife, Polly, set out from Dutchess County early in the 1800's to take up land in Chenango County. Later they decided to go back to Dutchess County but after a year there they recalled the pleasant spot near their farm, now known as Sherburne Four Corners and returned and opened up a tavern where scores of ox teams passed their door.

Polly was an excellent hostess and cared for the needs of the weary travelers that stopped for rest and food. They both lived to be in their nineties.

SMITHVILLE FLATS

When Col. E. Sheldon set out from his home in Litchfield, Connecticut, he headed west and encountered another pioneer living alone in the wilderness of central New York. The surroundings were very pleasant and the game plentiful so he accepted the invitation of Robert Lytell to share his cabin and stayed all summer.

In the fall Col. Sheldon went back to Connecticut and gathered up his family and belongings and some neighbors named Agard and returned to the cabin to find Lytell gone and he was never heard of again. So these two families, Sheldon and Agard, were the first to settle in what is now Smithville Flats.

There is an interesting story in the old history books of how Col. Sheldon killed three deer with one shot.

From such a small beginning, a prosperous farming and busy industrial community grew up. The Grange, along with the community churches, were the center of the social life, bringing to farm families culture, education and recreation that made more tolerable the rugged frontier life.

Smithville Valley Grange No. 1397 was organized in 1916 and held its first meetings in the Universalist church. When there was but one member of the church left, Gage Tarbell sold the building to the Grange, which was forty-five years ago. This has always been an active Grange and has a number of outstanding members who served the county.

SMYRNA

Smyrna, known as the 8th Township of the Governor's Purchase, was taken from Sherburne March 25, 1808, and first named Stafford, but the name was changed April 5th of the same year to Smyrna, named, it is said, from the ancient city in Asia Minor.

The first settlers were Joseph Porter and wife who came from Conway, Massachusetts in August 1792. They located on the

present Chapman farm, where a log house was erected. The second family in town was Joseph Tobey and wife who arrived March 3, 1793. With them was their 3 year old son, Joseph P. Tobey.

David Wilber, Joseph Billings and Joseph Collins joined the settlement in 1793.

Five generations of the Tobey family still live in Chenango County.

Hon. Isaac Foote came to Chenango County in 1794 and the family came in the spring. He located on a farm where he resided for nearly 50 years, until his death on February 27, 1842.

Apollos Allen with his family came from Gill, Massachusetts in 1798, settling on a large farm, a portion of which is now the present village of Smyrna.

School records of 1877 disclose that there were 14 common school districts in the township. Eight male and twenty female teachers were employed and the wages paid to them was the staggering sum of $2,744.07.

The big fire of June 16, 1900, starting in the Comstock Drug Store, consumed all the business buildings on the south side of the main street and the total loss was estimated at $75,000. Since then all the buildings have been rebuilt.

The present village band was organized in 1919. There are only three members of the original band still playing.

John Widger came to Smyrna at the age of 21 and stayed there the rest of his life. He was a barber as long as he lived with the exception of a few years he spent as Postmaster of Smyrna. John never charged more than twenty-five cents for a haircut.

The Coye Hop Farm was built by Frank Coye. All the buildings are now gone and it is being made over by a party from New York City into a holiday resort.

The Coye Marshal Band was a well known band. This was made up entirely of the Coye family. They played at many celebrations. It consisted entirely of drums and fifes until Clayton and Kenneth were old enough to play the trumpet and clarinet.

CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES

Still standing as a quiet reminder of more tranquil times are the little wooden churches that were built in almost every hamlet of Chenango County. In the past fifty years many that have stood the test of time and the storms of many winters have been converted to other uses, but those still holding services are worth turning from the busy highway for a few reflective moments.

WHITE STORE CHURCH

White Store Church, best known of the area churches and located between Mount Upton and South New Berlin, was actually started in 1812. Methodists, Baptists and Universalists united in determination to have a church home and contributed time, labor, material and money. Work having been delayed by the war, the building was not completed until 1820.

The interior is much the same as it was in the old days with box-stall pews and a high pulpit. Wood stoves in the rear have replaced the iron kettles filled with coals, and the individual foot stoves formerly carried by the worshippers. Tallow candles gave way to kerosene lamps, and in 1852 the pulpit was lowered two feet in keeping with what was then a modern trend.

The guest book shows that many travelers pause for rest and meditation. The church's location on a hill overlooking the Unadilla River as it winds through the valley, provides a magnificent view and the gravestones and monuments of the Evergreen Cemetery that surrounds the church are dated back to 1805, which is long before the church was completed.

EVERGREEN CEMETERY

Evergreen Cemetery at White Store dates back to 1805, and there are over 1000 buried here. The oldest grave is Mrs. Jonas Eastwood who died October 15, 1795. One of the most noted men buried here is Major Samuel Day, who settled near White Store. He was present at the Boston Tea Party and helped throw the tea overboard. He died in 1810.

SPRINGVALE CHURCH

Springvale Church is located between Polkville and Whites Pond, east of Norwich, and was built to serve a small community in 1894.

Three brothers, Herman, Harris and Horatio Lewis made a gift of the land and lumber on condition that it be used for a church edifice. This is one of the few old-time churches that are still used regularly and is in good condition.

COVENTRY CHURCH

The First Congregational Church of Coventryville stands as a monument and a tribute to the sturdy pioneers who came from Connecticut a century and a half ago. It is still in good repair although one of the oldest church buildings in the county.

The nearby forests provided the building materials and work was started in 1804. The congregation did not wait until the interior was finished before they held services, but sat through long sermons upon hard, splintery benches. There was no heat in the winter so they sat huddled in homespun coats, hugging hot bricks to keep warm.

The name of John Stoddard stands out in the history of this struggling little church. He was ploughing his fields with a fine team of oxen when the minister came by and told him of the mortgage that was due and the grave financial difficulties the church was having to face. John listened in silence when the minister asked if he could make a small contribution, then he unhitched his team of oxen and walked away. The discouraged minister leaned on the split rail fence and realized how little actual cash these hard working farmers ever saw, much less had to spare for a church mortgage. He was surprised to see John Stoddard returning up the dusty lane alone. He had sold his team of oxen for $65, a mighty sum for those days, and he put it all in the hands of the minister. It was more than enough to tide the little church over the crisis!

AMBERVILLE CEMETERY

Around the right bend of Route 23 at Amberville and over the bridge a little way, look up at the twin knolls on the right side of the road. A tombstone is just visible through the trees. Climb up the myrtle-covered bank and under the wire fence and you will be in perhaps the first burying ground in the county. The trees and saplings are pushing over the ancient stones and the inscriptions on most of them are no longer legible. The whole families of Sages and Tuckers were buried here between 1820

and 1840 and one metal marker all but rusted away bears the date 1776.

PITCHER CHURCH

Back in 1820 when the Congregational Church was in the planning stage there was so much dissention on which site it should be built that it seemed that either two churches should be built or none at all. Many of the members asked to be released of their obligations as members but when the foundations were laid on the site of the present church they all relented and worked together in earnest. Deacon Blackman's death at this time cast a pall over the community, but the building of the church went on to completion and the last pew was installed in 1823.

BAINBRIDGE CHURCH

About 1791 the Congregation Society was formed in Bainbridge and in 1793 Rev. Joel Chapin was ordained and installed as pastor. This is believed to be the first ordination of a minister in this territory. This church was changed to First Presbyterian in 1873 and is now the oldest church in town.

Land for the church, school, burying ground and public green was given by Benjamin S. Carpenter.

The first Episcopal services were held in the village school house, and in 1827 their church home was built.

In 1816 the First Methodist Society was organized and their church, which is now a dwelling, was on Evans Street. The members of the Society purchased the land and built the present church in 1896.

The First Baptist Society was organized in 1867 and plans made for the new church which was completed in 1871.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OXFORD

The Congregational Church has an interesting history. Uri Tracy, a former missionary, theological student and schoolmaster, came to Oxford in 1791 to take a post in the new Academy. He worked diligently among the citizens to establish a church, but it was not until 1799 that a group was organized.

At first, services were held in Deacon Amos Franklin's shop with benches for seats. A church building was hopefully started across the street from the shop but funds were limited and soon gave out. Then by a fortunate circumstance, a traveling preacher coming through on horseback was persuaded to conduct a Sunday service and stayed on. This preacher, Rev. Joseph Wickman, turned out to be the moving spirit in completing the church. So successful were his efforts at money raising that within six months the first service was held in the new edifice, and it was dedicated July 31, 1823 by the Rev. Edward Andrews of Norwich.

Subsequently the energetic Preacher Wickham was ordained a pastor of that church and later a memorial chapel was added about 1887.

GEORGETOWN ROAD CEMETERY

Between Norwich and Oxford on the Georgetown Road is what was probably the burying ground of the Blackman Family as their farm is quite close and it was customary for families to be buried on their own land. Here there are many field stones without names and brush and weeds are taking over the little plot. Prudence, wife of Levi Blackman and daughter of Samuel Cole, is buried here in 1832. When she died she was only 25 years old. Elizabeth, wife of John Judson, was buried in 1813.

EAST RIVER ROAD CEMETERY

On the East River Road near the Lyon Brook road there is a house which is said to be 150 years old and at the back of it is a lonely, neglected, little cemetery of about 50 graves. A road up the hill to it is just visible.

* * *

On State Street out of Oxford is a well kept cemetery and some of the names still legible are those of Lyon Smith, Gifford and Perry, all dated in the early 1800's.

Many of the cemeteries on the road to Preston are neglected and over run with myrtle and vines. This road is known as the Roger's road and in one of the lots is buried the sixteen year old son of Ethan and Sally Rogers dated Sept. 11, 1811. Nearer to Preston turning left at the top of the hill is the Foster cemetery. Interned here is Joseph Slater 3rd . . . born 1754, he was a

Revolutionary War soldier who had come from Foster, Rhode Island. He died in Preston in 1828. Along the same road a lonely spot bears stones with the names of Smiths and Browns that will soon be unrecognizable. Between the County Farm and Route 12 an old soldier was buried in 1818 at the age of 74.

In Sherburne the West Hill Cemetery has the graves of prominent citizens. William Smith who fought in 22 battles and was buried here in the plot that he had laid out for his family. His wife was Abigail Adams, daughter of our second President John Adams. Abigail was visiting her family in Massachusetts when she died and so is buried there.

Maple Grove is a lonely little cemetery on the mail road near Otselic Center in which are many old stones. The oldest that can be identified is inscribed Esther, consort of Nicholas Young died Marh 23, 1821, age 32 years. Another, Esther, wife of Jonathon Brown died March 23 the same year and has this epitaph:

Go home dear friends, wipe off your tears
Here I shall be till Christ appears.

* * *

A wealth of materials on churches and cemeteries has been gathered by Norwich Township Grange members and we regret that we are unable to include it all in this edition.

LET'S GO SEE

OLD STONE HOUSE

The old Ezra Stone House built in 1822, is located on the Pleasant Valley Road in the Skinner Hill area, a few miles north of Norwich. Travelers come to an abrupt stop when they come to the house at the fork of the road.

Ezra Huntley was born in Lyme, Connecticut, during the Revolution. He grew up in the days just after the war when taxes were high. He struck out on horseback for an unknown world with his young bride Polly. He acquired a large tract of land which surrounded the stone house. They dug a cellar, then in some manner, quarried stone nearby. There was no mortar nearer than Albany so Ezra made the trips there to obtain it on horseback. It is just as hard and firm as it was in 1822 when he laid it between the stones. On one of the large stones near the roof on one side of the house has been chiseled "Ezra Huntley — 1822."

The twenty-nine year old Polly and a new baby died, and after a few years, Ezra went back to Connecticut and remarried his second cousin, Julia Ann Huntley. In those times the winters were bad, and there was always the danger of Indians and wild beast.

OLD MILL

Tourists passing and stopping for dinner at Ye-Old-Mill on Route 8 near Mount Upton little know that through two ancient wars men worked frantically in that building to fashion uniforms for the United States Army.

Uniforms made in the Old Mill have been pierced with rebel bullets, have felt the sharp pain of the Filipino sword and have been torn by the arrows of the Sioux Indians as Custer fought to the death at Little Big Horn.

At one time over 200 men and women were employed there turning out goods that were even beyond the standard set by the Army. General Grant wore a uniform that was made there. The Rockwell uniforms clothed the regiments which fought and died at Bull Run, Harpers Ferry, Gettysburg and other scenes of courage and death.

After the war the mill made prison uniforms for many years.

For forty years after the turn of the century the old mill was idle until it was made into a wonderful eating place called Ye-Old-Mill.

FARM HOUSE THAT WAS ONCE A TAVERN

Going from Oxford, south on Route 12, just before you get to Greene is an impressive farmhouse that was a very popular tavern during the Civil War and when the Chenango Canal was a busy thoroughfare. There is a sign telling that the first tavern was built here in 1794 but with the advent of the Chenango Canal in the late 1830's the wooden structure became inadequate to accomodate the increasing customer demands, so the present stone building was erected at the exhorbitant price of $11,000.

The first town meeting of Greene was held here in 1798, and besides the usual hospitality and merriment of the wayside tavern, the spacious basement was used by the notorious Loomis Gang to hide temporarily their stolen horses.

Civil War times saw the tavern boom, but the next decade watched its downfall with the closing of the Canal.

In 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon R. Wilcox purchased and remodeled this building, keeping to the original floor plan whenever possible. Two bedrooms upstairs each 16′ square can be made into one large 16′ x 32′ room by opening a series of doors. This was the original ballroom.

Today this is one of the best farms in Chenango County. It consists of 240 acres.

PITCHER SPRING

About three miles east of Pitcher Village is a lone sulphur spring. Hardly anyone visits the spring, but a century ago it was the center of a busy place visited by hundreds of people each year. Here at that time was a large academy accomodating a hundred students, three hotels, four stores, a postoffice, a boot and shoe factory, a harness shop, a tannery, ashery, blacksmith shop, sawmill, two bowling alleys, two bath houses and several places of amusement. There is now nothing but a shed covering the once famous spring. The academy closed, then the hotels, follow-

ed by all the other places, leaving only the spring, and, if one wishes, he can stop for a drink of the mineral water which still bubbles from Pitcher Spring.

THORNBROOK HALL

Thornbrook Hall is located on a dirt road a short distance out of South Plymouth. This home was built soon after the Revolutionary War by David Cook, great grandfather of the present owner, Countess Crescimanno, the former Mary Adaline Cook. Thornbrook Hall is a two-story frame building constructed almost square around an inner court. A third story tower reaches up from somewhere in the recesses of the building. Out in front there is a roofed balcony where one can sit and gaze down the valley to Norwich. There are covered driveways on two sides of the house leading into the inner court. There are many rooms in this residence and among them the studio where George, the brother of the Countess, spent so much time with his paintings which still adorn the walls of Thornbrook Hall. The Throne Room is the most ornately furnished. A large mirror almost fills one wall and it has 14th and 16th century furniture, both Italian and French. It is called the Throne Room because of a chair once owned by the King of Naples. Many of the treasures now in Thornbrook Hall were gathered by Countess Crescimanno, and her artist brother during their travels in Europe and years of residence in London, Paris, Berlin, Milan and Palermo.

STONE MANSION OR MOSS HOME IN NEW BERLIN

The old stone mansion, formerly known as the Moss Home, built in New Berlin in 1831, has been turned into a semi-private hotel by the Preferred Mutual Fire Insurance Company. It will now be known as Preferred Manor and will provide accomodations for the company's agents, associates and the public. It is refinished in the period in which it was built. The front hall, with winding stairs, doors with massive locks and scenic wallpaper, is of great interest to visitors. The paper was designed by the French artist, Pierre Jacquemant. On the upper ceiling is an eighteenth century indoor wind dial. All of the rooms of the house have colonial type recessed windows, inside double blinds

and handcarved paneling and molding. The lounge and three of the bedrooms each have fireplaces with original paneling and mantels.

REXFORD FALLS

Rexford Falls is a short distance from Sherburne on the road to Columbus. It is a beautiful scenic picnic ground. There are two picnic parks connected by a steel bridge which was erected in 1876. This picnic park was deeded to the Town of Sherburne in the will of Nelson C. Rexford who died in 1875. A fine spacious hotel was built there in 1883 and guests came from miles away to enjoy the scenery and drink from the sulphur springs. On the spot where once stood this Hotel or Spring House, as it was called, there is now only a small refreshment stand. As one stops at the Falls for a picnic, one can see the giant trees that line the gorge on both sides, some of them more than a hundred years old. One can also watch Mad Brook, as it dashes over the rocks far below the bridge. The first sawmill was located about a mile below Rexford Falls and it was at this mill that the first sermon was preached in these parts.

THE FRINK TAVERN OR SPRING HOUSE

The Old Frink Tavern or Spring House still stands on the Kirk-Pharsalia road on Route 23 — eleven miles from Norwich and one mile from North Pharsalia. It was built in 1829 by Hiram Frink, son of Nathan Frink, who came by ox cart from Stonington, Conn., in 1801. It was built on the old plank road that reached from South Otselic to Norwich. It was the last word in county taverns and contained a large dining room, a kitchen that was kept spotlessly clean, and a brightly lighted bar room. Finest of all was the huge ballroom and upstairs on one side were the rows of bedrooms which were all numbered.

Several years after the death of Hiram Frink, Dr. L. D. Greenleaf bought the property. He built a summer house over the mineral spring which is across the road from the Tavern. He turned the Tavern into a great health resort and the rich and ailing came from all over the State. Today the great Tavern is still to be seen. Until a few years ago the Tavern was owned by Wheeler Frink. At one time Boyd Frink, owned the Tavern and lived there for quite a few years, so it has been in the Frink family most of the time.

OLD TIMER'S TALES

A contribution to our Grange Community Service Project from a charming old lady who is no longer with us. The contribution was faded with age and pasted on a card to hold it together, and there was no author's signature.

MY FARM

My farm to me, is not just land
Where bare, unpainted buildings stand.
To me my farm is nothing less
Than all created loveliness.

My farm is not where I must soil
My hands in endless, dreary toil
But where, through seed and swelling pod,
I've learned to walk and talk with God.

My farm to me is not a place
Outmoded by a modern race
I like to think I just see less
Of evil, greed, and selfishness.

My farm's not lonely — for all day
I hear my children shout at play
And here, when the end comes, free from fears
I'll live again long joyous years.

My farm's a heaven — here dwells rest,
Security, and happiness
What e'er befalls the world outside
Here faith, and hope, and love abide.

And so my farm is not just land
Where bare unpainted buildings stand
To me, my farm's nothing less
Than all God's hoarded loveliness.

This is the winning essay of a Grange contest entitled:

WHY I THINK CHENANGO COUNTY IS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE IN

I was born in Norwich and have seen it grow from a small village to a prosperous city. I remember when the south end of Birdsall Street, Rowley Avenue, south side of Hale Street, what is now the Norwich Pharmacal Company parking lot, and the Perry Browne School all were cow pastures.

I was one of 150 or more kids that marched from the old school house on Birdsall Street to the new ward school No. 1 on the corner of Birdsall and Front Streets, September 3, 1896. We were led by Blanford's Band, Professor Griffin, superintendent of schools, and Professor Gibson, Principal, who afterwards became superintendent of schools, a position he held over 35 years. "A Wonderful Man." Each kid carried a small American flag. There were five teachers: Miss Kate Bolger, Miss Peet, Miss Riley, Miss Oakley, who became Mrs. Frank Skinner, and Miss Mary Devine.

Ward School No. 1 was followed by Ward School No. 2 at the corner of Rexford and Silver Street, No. 3 at the corner of Cortland and Miller Streets, East Main School and South Broad Street School. The high school on West Main Street was completely remodeled in 1921.

Norwich continued to grow. Today we have two modern schools, the Stanley Gibson and Perry Browne schools and still we need more and planning a new high school on what was the O. & W. R. R. property.

I have seen Norwich Pharmacal Company grow from a small wooden building to several modern buildings and it has become one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world.

The Norwich Wire Works started in a wooden building at the corner of South Broad and Front Streets. Today it is one of the leading industries.

Norwich Mills has grown, employing 300 to 400 people over 40 years.

General Laboratories, one of the newer industries, is expanding yearly.

Bennett-Ireland is one of the "Old Faithfuls."

The Norwich Shoe Company started in a building on Fair Street and has expanded so fast that two new modern factories have been built.

I have seen Norwich grow from the kerosene age to our present time, when everyone takes gas and electricity for granted. What would the young generation think if they knew that washing machines, electric irons, vacuum cleaners, toasters, electric clippers, and all other electric appliances were unknown in their grandparents' time?

Years ago it was very common to have three or four drownings a year. Today we have a wonderful swimming pool, instructors and lifeguards and 75% of kids over 7 or 8 years old can swim.

We have a modern YMCA, a summer camp at North Pharsalia with every known modern convenience, swimming pool, instructors and the best supervision possible. It is a wonderful place to hold reunions and picnics. Another camp will be finished at McDonough in 1962.

I have fished and hunted in the Catskill Mountains, Adirondack Mountains, Provinces of Ontario and New Brunswick in Canada. Today I think we have more deer per square mile than any known place. Chenango County comprises over 500,000 acres; one-third or more having wonderful hunting and fishing.

There has never been any scandal in our police department, sheriff or county officials' departments. Delinquency and vandalism have never been major problems.

Norwich and Chenango County have been the birthplace and home of some noted people. Gail Borden lived just north of Hawley's Corners. Judge Ray was a federal judge. Others are Judge Lee, Senator Irving M. Ives, Senator Janet Hill Gordon, Judge Follett, Senator Sam Jones, Judge Gladding, George Rider, and David Maydole, who had the reputation of making one of the best hammers in the world; also the Eatons, who have been our leading industrialists, and Fred O'Hara, who came here from Utica and took the idle Erskine Silk Mill and built it into a nationally known company.

What are our assets? Modern streets, modern hospital, modern new county office building, the best of doctors and

nurses, shopping center, new parking places, a fire department excelled by none, honest merchants, and modern banks.

Our water has been tested by the State Health Department and highly praised.

The Grange is only one of our fraternal organizations. We have a wonderful Grange Hall with a membership of 400.

Chenango County is also noted for its agricultural standing and milk products.

* * *

THE PASSING SCENE

I'd been in the army three years before coming to Norwich in 1903 and I had seen action in the Chinese Boxer Rebellion, the Filipino Insurrection and the Spanish-American War where the 15th Infantry, Company G, were serving. As soon as I received my discharge in Monterey, California, I headed back for New York State.

In 1913 we purchased General Lamb's homestead on the dirt road between Sherburne and Norwich. Norwich was a village of 8,000 then and our seven acres was on the outskirts. We stocked the farm with chickens and ducks, pigs, and a powerful little western horse named Billie. Billie was known as the horse that went to jail. We had driven in the buggy to market and while we were in the store, Billie wandered off to the water fountain that was between the two parks. This was against the law — horses and buggies were not permitted to roam the streets unaccompanied. So, Billie was towed to the jailhouse across the park and we had to go and bail him out.

We brought three babies with us and another was born a year later. He happens to be the principal of a high school now.

At that time the children had to walk a mile to school, home to dinner and back again and we paid for tuition in the grade schools.

I worked for the electric company for 18 years, and was in charge of erecting the transmission lines from Norwich to Oxford at the time the State Road was being built. We moved poles and equipment by hand cart, horse and wagon and then by a light truck which I learned to drive for which I had a chauffeur's license.

The first car we purchased in 1920 was an open Overland with black side curtains that could be put on and taken off. Our first ride was to Oxford and the thing caught fire, curtains and all. A neighbor came to the rescue with a fire extinguisher. I forget how we got home.

Our longest trip was to Plattsburg, N. Y. Coming home we had an accident that involved a street car and a young man on his way to a wedding rehearsal. Well, we had to leave the car in Schoharie and come home in a taxi. We were driving all night because the only road signs were painted poles, and the driver had got his colors mixed, and we got lost. What with the children and the dog, the bumpy roads and the mud, Paul Revere had it easy!

Governor Charles Whitman appointed me Commander of Chenango County Home Defense in 1917. I recruited and drilled 72 uniformed men at a time and Chenango County was recognized for sending many officers and non-commissioned officers to the forces.

After my eighteen years with the electric company I was chief engineer at the Norwich Knitting Mill for twenty-five years and from there I retired. Since 1951 I have been County Court Crier.

(The writer is one of the last living Spanish-American War Veterans.)

* * *

TURKEYS TO MARKET

"When I see poultry being crated and trucked to market I recall the days when as a little girl on the farm we used to ship turkeys to the market in New York City over two hundred miles away.

Early on a summer morning the wagon would be loaded with corn for the turkeys and hay for the team. There would be a lunch basket of new bread, cheese, fried cakes, etc., for my father and uncle and a roll of blankets and quilts.

The turkeys would be flocked together and with much screeching and gobbling they would be shooed down the country lane with the covered wagon following them.

From Springvale they went by way of Sidney, Masonville and Deposit with the flock of turkeys ahead of them, and when the birds were hungry they would toss their heads and squawk. At night they roosted in the trees along the trail, but at daybreak they would come down to be fed grain from the wagon.

My Father and Uncle were gone days, and when they returned there was usually sweets and a new hair ribbon from the big city.

A MESSAGE TO BAINBRIDGE IN 1836

(TAKEN FROM SMITH'S HISTORY)

Dear Brethren:

"We the undersigned, believing it to be the duty of all who profess godliness, to do all that is in their power to promote the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world and being desirous to promote it in the south part of Bainbridge, where Satan's seat has been of long standing and we, being located so that we cannot enjoy the privileges of church fellowship, humbly ask you to take into consideration our situation and the blessed cause of Christ and, if expedient, give us of your fellowship as a church of Christ for which your brethren and sisters do humbly pray."

This letter was addressed to a council of members of several Baptist churches in an effort to get a church built in South Bainbridge.

FROM A GAZETTEER OF 1869 - 1879

When Samuel Farnham was Town Clerk in Oxford in 1800 the following is the kind of annual report that was published. "We, Ephriam Fitch, James Phelps and Anson Carey, commissioners of Excise, for the town of Oxford, in the County of Chenango, do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that we will not on any account or pretense whatever, grant any license to any person within the said town of Oxford, for the purpose of keeping an inn or tavern, but only in such cases, as appears to us absolutely necessary for the benefit of travelers, and that we will in all things, while acting as commissioners of Excise, do our duty to the best of our judgment and abilities, without fear, favor or partiality, agreeable to law." This oath was taken May 6, 1800.

The expenses for the previous year for Oxford town were:

Defraying County Charges	$193.81
For wolves	30.00
Collector's and Treasurer's Fees	18.00
Schooling	89.43
Total	$331.34

At the first town meeting in 1794 this entry is on record: "Voted in said Town Meeting to give three Pounds Bounty on Each wolf Ketcht and kild in this town in addition to what Bounty the County Gives." Again in 1795 they voted to give "Three pounds per pate for wolves," and that "hogs be free commoners yoked and rung." But in 1801 things were looking up because we find that the supervisors voted that "Hogs do not run at large." Also the supervisor was authorized to procure suitable and decent books for the keeping of the records of the town and to employ a clerk to transfer the old records into the new book.

An advertisement among the fascinating "Publisher's Notices in the Chenango County Directory from which the above is quoted reads: "F. D. Wood, Photographer, Greene, N. Y., has very pleasant rooms, where he is daily catching the shadows as they fly and transferring them to paper, to the great delight of all who favor him with their patronage. He keeps a general assortment of Albums, Frames, etc., which he sells at low rates."

Writing of W. H. Chapman and Co., General Merchants of Norwich, 'tis said, "To see the large bundles of goods carried away daily, we wonder how their stock can be kept up without a railroad direct to the Metropolis."

Here is another: "The New Berlin Pioneer is one of the best family papers in the County. Being situated near the border of Chenango and Otselic Counties, and circulating where no other county papers reach, it is without rival as an advertising medium. The publisher has a sales-room connected with the office and is prepared to take the goods of responsible parties at wholesale prices in payment for advertising; thus doing the double work of advertising and introducing goods. This is a new, but good way, of introducing a new article."

ON WITH THE HATS

In the days when dresses and hats were a work of art, and the milliner and the dressmaker important assets to the community, the ladies of Chenango County were very smartly dressed as any early photos will show. The wives of the early settlers soon tired of homespun and demanded yard goods. We have Grangers who still remember the styles and fashions of the Gay Nineties, and have some exquisite gowns still hanging in their closets.

Summer materials most fashionable when our country was young were French gingham, dimity and muslin. Silks, satins and lace were favored for "Sunday best and go to Meetings."

For winter, broadcloth, alpaca, serge and cashmere were among the most popular. Long gored skirts sweeping the floor were finished at the hem with "brush binding" and had to be gathered up and carried thrown over the left arm when walking up steps. An old song goes:

"We could not see their ankles
For such things they did not show
But how we longed for a windy day
Many long years ago!"

The waist line was so high it was unnatural, and the neckline was often just under the chin with fine lace and net boned to hold it up under the ears. Quite charming, if you didn't want to turn your head. Sleeves were called Leg-o-mutton, and looked it, having been stuffed with a fabric called crinoline. Many were the petticoats plain and fancy, all gathered at the waist on to a band and fastened with a button and buttonhole. Buttons were apt to come off and an embarrassed lady would find herself hobbled by yards of calico and nainsook. Hurray for the good old zipper, even if they do stick sometimes!

SO MUCH FOR THE DRESSES ! ! NOW FOR THE HATS ! !

Hats were really hats and were meant to add charm to a lady, and to be a joy to behold by a gentleman. Millinery was really an art and not a trade. Velvets and laces, ribbons and flowers, covered brims and bonnets — a little problem to hold on to sometimes, but then what isn't? There was the leghorn hat trimmed with ribbon, and sailor hat called the "gage"; also, the

tiny little opera bonnet with ostrich plumes, feathers, and even saucy little birds. Ah, where are the hats of yesteryear, and the clever little fingers that made them?

HOLD YOUR HATS

Hold your hats! These are NEW improvements in the Norwich area within the past ten years.

The county building on Court Street; two new ward schools and a parochial school and preparations for a new high school. The Stott Real Estate Building and Hamilton House of fine furniture and the Lower Bank on South Broad Street. Broad and Main streets have been widened and there is a new bridge down by the fairgrounds, and a pole barn stands in Maydole Grove.

Two new shoe factories have been built, Carl Paine Insurance Building; and a fine service drug store, is where the old movie used to be. The band pagoda in the park has been rebuilt and dedicated. These churches have been remodeled and enlarged: the Congregational, Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, Lutheron, Jewish, and perhaps others since we compiled this list.

Under construction at the time of writing is the addition to the Chenango and Unadilla Telephone Company, and Sears Roebuck mail order store. A fine gas station stands where the old Eagle Hotel stood ten years ago.

These are improvements on North Broad Street in the past ten years. The Blue Bird Restaurant enlarged and remodeled; Besdin furniture; self-service laundry; swimming pool and extension to the Y. M. C. A. The "Upper Bank," has been remodeled; the Victory Supermarket is where the former Parochial school stood.

The former Higley home now houses the Agriculture Conservation Extension Services fine modern offices and is its headquarters for the 4-H Clubs. Further along the Chenango Memorial Hospital has had a new wing added, and within sight of these, the Farm Credit Association has put up a new building. Across the valley can be seen the former Borden's Creamery that is now a Victory warehouse. But we are not through yet!

South of the center of Norwich is a large shopping center containing a Family Bargain Center, a modern Victory, Kehoe's Furniture, a laundromat, bowling alley, beauty parlor, R. R.

Express, and Doyle's of Sherburne, famous for the finest baked goods and delicatessen, and a gift shop.

There's an Asphalt Products Co. on the East River Road. We have nine new trailer parks, besides Fred's Inn and Hand's Inn Motels. There are over 250 new homes within a four mile area and many old homes remodeled. Have you ever wondered why many of the garages around town are two-storied with little doors up above? They were built in the days of horse and carriage, and up above was the hay loft.

We have seven new parking lots, fifteen new and remodeled gas stations and two new city water tanks.

All this improvement in TEN YEARS! No wonder Norwich has been called the "Biggest Little City in New York State."

VACATIONLAND

Chenango County has much to offer as an ideal Vacationland.

Having recorded a little of the background of Chenango County in this issue we hope to enlarge on the present and future possibilities of this beautiful area of Upstate New York as a Vacationland in our next edition. But here is a little list of what we have to attract visitors and holiday makers NOW.

A children's camp on a highland farm over New Berlin way.

Playgrounds, swimming pool and Y. M. C. A. and a Y camp.

Campsite and picnic park in Smyrna, and a big State park and campsite under construction at Bowman's Lake, McDonough.

We have a travel bureau, radio station, stock exchange, an airport and a county fair.

There are farms that take summer boarders, hotels, motels and campsites beside lakes and rivers.

For fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping and scenic drives, Chenango County is unsurpassed. Golf courses, bowling alleys, boating; there is just no end of the attractions that Chenango County has to offer.

The Chamber of Commerce can fill in much information that we have not room to list.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A Grange Community Service Project is just what its name implies, a service to the community, and is often recognized by State and National awards.

The Grange Lecturer's program is often called the literary program and when the Grange was organized in 1866 it was the duty of the lecturer to educate the members on local and national events of interest to farmers. With the coming of newspapers and modern communications the office of lecturer has changed with the times and it is now that of a program planner.

Our lecturers programs are built around themes proposed by the National and State Grange officers. This year "Planned Development" as the National Theme suggested what a unique opportunity the Grange organization has in each community to aid in building a fuller, better life through individual cooperation in planned development.

To quote from the National Grange Handbook, "Through planned development we charter the course of the growth and expansion of the communities in which we live — Working together through the Grange, we shape our destiny. We should plan for the future because that is where we will spend the rest of our lives."

The New York State Grange theme for 1962 was "Our Cherished Possessions" and the symbol was the "Magic Circle."

With the land in which we live as our most cherished possession and within the magic circle of good fellowship Ring Leaders gathered information on Chenango County from friends, scrap books, old histories and the township libraries.

We regret we are unable to publish in this edition all the material compiled on "Vactionland, Churches, Cemeteries and Scenic Drives.

Every serious Grange Community Service Project should be based on the Grange Principles, Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity.

The **Faith** with which we started gathering notes and material for this little book has been more than justified by the help we received and the new friends we have made.

Hope, gave us courage to carry on this entirely new field of expressing how we feel about the community we live in.

Charity, which is another name for love, has been overwhelming evident in the cooperation and goodwill we have received from everyone with whom we have come in contact.

Fidelity. By sticking to our purpose and watching the obstacles go down we have proved that the Grange principles are as practical today as they were when the Founders wrote them in 1866.

Mission Accomplished !

SUGGESTIONS FOR CORRECTIONS

There is a danger in copying facts from sources that can no longer be verified and we are well aware in compiling this little book that many folks are better informed than we, so we have a suggestion that might be helpful in correcting unintentional errors.

1. Write the complete facts as you know them to be and send them to your local paper as an item of interest and not condemnation.

2. When your article is published cut it out and paste it in your little book as you would a receipe. Then send a copy of the correction to anyone else you know that has a book.

This could start up a chain of information that might be of interest to the whole county.

Subordinate Granges of Chenango County

1515—Afton

1570—Algonquin, Bainbridge

1511—Coventry

1413—Greene

1301—Kelly, McDonough

1359—North Norwich

1581—Norwich Township

1398—Otselic Valley, Otselic

1571—Otsenango, New Berlin

894—Oxford

1535—Plymouth

1520—Preston

1400—Sherburne

512—Smithville Center

1397—Smithville Valley

1578—Smyrna

1566—Unadilla Valley, South New Berlin

Pomona Grange Meets Quarterly.

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